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HISTORICAL TOUR

MONMOUTHSHIRE;

ILLUSTRATED WITH

VIEWS BY SIR R. C. HOARE, BART.

A NEW MAP OF THE COUNTY,

79880

AND

OTHER ENGRAVINGS:

BY

WILLIAM COXE, A.M. F.R.S. F.A.S.

RECTOR OF BEMERTON AND STOURTON.

PART THE FIRST.

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TO

SIR RICHARD COLT HOARE, BART.

MY DEAR SIR,

AN HISTORICAL TOUR in MONMOUTHSHIRE, commenced in Your Company, written at Your Suggeſtion, and embelliſhed by Your Pencil, is inſcribed to You with peculiar propriety; and I am happy in this public opportunity of expreſſing thoſe ſentiments of eſteem and regard, with which I am

Your ſincere and

much obliged Friend,

WILLIAM COXE.

BEMERTON,
October 1, 1800.

This Work was intended to be compriſed in one Volume, and is paged accordingly; but the extent of the Narrative, and the number of PLATES, which amount to no leſs than Ninety, having ſwelled it beyond the limits originally propoſed, it was deemed too bulky for a ſingle Volume, and is therefore divided into Two Parts.

CONTENTS.

PART THE FIRST.

PREFACE — — — — — — — *page* i to viii

INTRODUCTION, *page* *1 to *32; viz.

SECTION 1. Monmouthſhire.—Situation and Boundaries.—Rivers.—Hundreds.—Population.—Languages.—Situation in the Roman, Britiſh, Saxon, and Norman Periods.—Reduced to an Engliſh County — — — — — *page* *1

Sect. 2. Roman Stations and Roads in Monmouthſhire.—Courſe of the Julia Strata from Bath to the Confines of Glamorganſhire — — — — *11

Sect. 3. Ancient Encampments.—Caſtles.—Churches — — — *22

TOUR.

CHAPTER 1. Paſſage of the Severn.—Charſton Rock.—Black Rock and Houſe.—St. Pierre.—Ancient Tomb.—Pedigree of the Lewis Family — — — 1

Chap. 2. Mathern.—Ancient Reſidence of the Biſhops of Landaff.—Church.—Inſcription on King Theodorick.—Moinſcourt.—Runſton — — — — 7

Chap 3. Sudbrook Encampment.—Chapel.—Portſcwit.—Caldecot Caſtle — 15

Chap. 4. Crick.—Caerwent.—Roman Antiquities.—Preſent State.—Dinham — 24

Chap. 5. Caſtles of Penhow, Pencoed, Lanvair, and Striguil.—Berthollу Houſe.—Views from the Pencamawr, and Kemeys Folly — — — — 30

Chap. 6. Road to Newport.—Chriſtchurch.—Excurſion to Lanwern and Goldcliff.—Remains of the Priory.—Sea Walls — — — — — 39

Chap. 7. Newport.—Bridge.—Situation.—Population.—Commerce.—Canal.—Caſtle.—Hiſtory and Proprietors.—Church of St. Woolos.—Anecdote on the conſtruction of the Tower.—Account of St. Woolos.—Caerau.—Ancient Religious Eſtabliſhments - 45

CONTENTS.

Chap. 8. Excurſions from Newport to the South-weſtern Boundaries of Monmouthſhire — Upper Road to Caerdiff.—Encampment of the Gaer.—Baſſaleg.—Craeg y Saeſſon.—New Park Encampment.—Lanvihangel Vedw.—Kevenmably.—St. Melons.—Rumney.—Lower Road from Caerdiff to Newport.—Caſtleton.—Tredegar.—Morgan Family.—Machen Place and Church.—Bedwas — — — — — — *page* 58

Chap. 9. Level of Wentloog.—Sea Walls.—Greenfield Caſtle.—Churches of St. Bride's, Peterſton, and Marſhfield.—Excurſion to Twyn Barlwm — — — 71

Chap. 10. Road from Newport to Caerleon.—Malpas Church.—Caerleon.—Etymology.—Roman Antiquities.—Walls.—Circumference.—Amphitheatre.—Suburbs, or Ultra Pontem.—Caſtle.—Ancient Encampments in the Vicinity — — — 78

Chap. 11. Hiſtory of Caerleon after the Departure of the Romans.—King Arthur.—Knights of the Round Table.—Church of St. Cadoc.—Ancient Abbey.—Caſtle.—Modern Hiſtory, and preſent State of Caerleon.—Bridge.—Singular Eſcape of Mrs. Williams - 92

Chap. 12. St. Julian's.—Memoirs of Lord Herbert of Cherbury — — 103

Chap. 13. Lantarnam Houſe.—Branch of the Morgan Family.—Upper Road to Uſk —Langibby Houſe and Caſtle.—Family of Williams.—Lower Road to Uſk.—Kemeys Houſe.—Inſcription in Tredonnoc Church.—Lantriſaint.—Lanllowel.—Vale of Uſk 115

Chap. 14. Town of Uſk.—Ancient Burrium.—Caſtle.—Hiſtory and Proprietors.—Church.—Inſcription.—Priory.—Encampments of Craeg y Guercyd, Campwood, and Coed y Bunedd — — — — — — — — 124.

Chap. 15. Raglan Caſtle and Hiſtory.—Proprietors.—Anecdotes of William Herbert Earl of Pembroke, of Sir Charles Somerſet firſt Earl, and of Henry firſt Marquis of Worceſter.—Siege, Surrender, and Demolition of the Caſtle.—Church.—Cemetery.—Character of Edward Earl of Glamorgan and ſecond Marquis of Worceſter — — 136.

Chap. 16. Lanſanfraed Houſe and Church.—Pant y Goytre.—Clytha Houſe and Caſtle—Lanarth Court.—Troſtrey Forge.—Kemeys Commander.—Troſtrey Houſe and Church.—Bettus Newydd — — — — — — — 155

Chap. 17. Abergavenny.—Circumjacent Mountains.—The Blorenge.—Sugar Loaf.—Skyrrid.—Eſtabliſhment of the Free School — — — — 164

Chap. 18. Tudor's Gate.—Ruins of Abergavennny Caſtle.—Hiſtory and different Proprietors — — — — — — — — 172

Chap. 19. Ancient Pariſh Church.—Priory.—St. Mary's Church.—Herbert Chapel.—Monuments.—Sir William ap Thomas.—Sir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook.—Sir Richard Herbert of Ewias.—Other Sepulchral Memorials.—Epitaph on the Roberts Family — — — — — — — — 182

Chap. 20. Excurſions to the Summits of the Sugar Loaf and Great Skyrrid — 195

Chap. 21. Twy Dec.—Werndee.—Ancient Seat of the Herbert Family.—Landeilo Bertholly.—Ancient Grant.—Excurſion to the Derry, Rolben, and Lanwenarth Hills.—View from the Summit of the Little Skyrrid — — — — 202

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS FOR THE PLATES.

As ſome of the Plates contain two or more Subjects, deſcribed in different Parts of the Work, the Chapters in which each of thoſe Subjects are reſpectively mentioned, are ſpecified in this Liſt. A few Miſtakes made by the Engraver, in ſome of the Names, are alſo here corrected.

PART THE FIRST.

I. MAPS.

1. THE Map of Monmouthſhire - - *to face the Introduction, page* *1.

2. Containing
Plan of the Via Julia from Bath to the Severn - - - - - } - *11.
General Sketch of the Roman Roads and Stations in Monmouthſhire and Wales, and the adjacent counties - - }

II. VIEWS.

1. St. Pierre, chap. 1. - - - - - - - - - } - - - - } *to face page* 3.
Moinscourt Gateway, chap. 2. - - - - - - - - - }

2. Epiſcopal Palace at Mathem (Mathern) - - - - - - - - - - - - - 7.

3. Sudbrook Chapel - - - - - - - - - - - - -

7. Caſtle of Pencoed - - - - - - - - - - - - - - to face page 34.

8. Ruins of Lanvair Caſtle - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 36.

9. Ruins of Striguil Caſtle - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 38.

10. Chriſtchurch, chap. 6. - - - - - - - - - - - - }
Malpas Church, chap. 10. - - - - - - - - - - - - } - - - - 40.

11. Bridge and Caſtle at Newport - - - - - - - - - - - - - 45.

12. Inſide View of the Church of St. Woolos at Newport - - - - - - 53.

13. Baſſaleg, chap. 8. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - }
Machen Place - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - } - - - - 59.

14. Front and Back View of the Round Tower, near the Hanbury Arms - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - }
Ruins near the Bridge - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - } - - - - 89.
Remains of the Caſtle Works near the Uſk - - - - - - - - }
South Angle of the Roman Walls at Caerleon - - - - - - - }

15. Town and Bridge of Caerleon - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 100.

16. Front View of St. Julian's - - - - - - - - - - - - - }
Back View of St. Julian's - - - - - - - - - - - - - - } - - - - 103.

17. Bridge and Caſtle of Uſk - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 126.

18. Uſk Church - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - }
Porch of Uſk Priory - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - } - - - - 132.

19. Raglan Caſtle - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 138.

20. Inſide View of Raglan Caſtle - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 140.

21. Clytha Gateway - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 157.

22. Clytha Caſtle - 158.

23. Abergavenny, with a diſtant View of the Skyrrid - - - - - - - - 164.

24. Werndee, chap. 21. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - }
Perthîr, chap. 33. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - }
Treowen, chap. 33, and - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - } - - - - 203.
Caeluch, Appendix, No. 11. - - - - - - - - - - - - - }

III. PORTRAITS,

III. PORTRAITS, &c.

1. Lord Herbert of Cherbury - - - - - - - - - - *to face page* 105.
2. Sir Charles Somerset, first Earl of Worcester - - - - - - - - - 142.
3. Henry Somerset, first Marquis of Worcester - - - - - - - - - 144.
4. Edward, second Marquis of Worcester and Earl of Glamorgan - - 151.
5. Monumental Effigies of Sir William ap Thomas - - - - - - - - 186.
6. Monumental Effigies of Sir Richard Herbert - - - - - - - - - 188.
7. Major Hanbury - 236.
8. Sir Charles Hanbury Williams * - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 271.

IV. PLANS OF TOWNS.

1. Plan of Caerwent, or VENTA SILURUM - - - - - - - - - - - 25.
2. Town and Liberties of Newport - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 46.
3. Plan of Caerleon, or ISCA SILURUM - - - - - - - - - - - - 84.
4. Plan of Usk - 125.
5. Plan of Abergavenny - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 167.

V. GROUND PLANS OF ANCIENT CASTLES AND ENCAMPMENTS.

1. Encampments in the Vicinity of Oldcastle:
Pwl y Bala, near Campston - - - - - - - - - -
Gwen Castle - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -
Coed y Crafel - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -
Walterston - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -
On the Summit of the Gaer - - - - - - - - - - *23.
Above Trewyn House - - - - - - - - - - - -
These Encampments are alluded to in the Introduction, Section 2, and in chapter 23. - - - - - - - - -

2. Portscwit

* The Reader is desired to correct the Inscription at the bottom of this Plate, which should be *Duncombe* not *Duncan* Davies.

2. Portscwit Encampment
Ground Plan of Caldecot Caſtle } *to face page* 15.

3. Ground Plans of Penhow
Pencoed
Lanvair and
Striguil Caſtles, chap. 5. } 33.

4. Ground Plans of Newport Caſtle, chap. 7.
Langibby Caſtle, chap. 13.
Uſk Caſtle, chap. 14.
Abergavenny Caſtle, chap. 18. } 49.

5. Encampment of the Gaer in Tredegar Park
Craeg y Saeſon, and
Pen y Parc Newydd, chap. 8. } 60.

6. Tumulus and Entrenchment of Twyn Barlwm, chap. 9.
Encampments of Pen y Pill and Rumney, chap. 8. } 75.

7. Encampments of the Lodge
Penros
Mayndee, and
St. Julian's } 90.

8. Encampments of Coed y Bunedd
Campwood, and
Craeg y Gaercydd } 134.

9. Ground Plan of Raglan Caſtle 137.

PREFACE.

THE preſent work owes its origin to an accidental excurſion into Monmouthſhire, in company with my friend ſir Richard Hoare, during the autumn of 1798. I was delighted with the beauties of the ſcenery; I was ſtruck with the pictureſque ruins of ancient caſtles memorable in the annals of hiſtory, and I was animated with the view of manſions diſtinguiſhed by the reſidence of illuſtrious perſons; objects which the ſketches of my friend's pencil rendered more impreſſive.

On my return I examined my notes, peruſed the principal books relating to Monmouthſhire, and convinced that ſo intereſting a county deſerved particular notice, formed the plan of a tour, which ſhould combine hiſtory and deſcription, and illuſtrate both with the efforts of the pencil. Sir Richard Hoare ſtrongly encouraged me in my undertaking, offered to accompany me again into Monmouthſhire, and to ſupply me with additional views.

Accordingly, in the ſpring of 1799, I explored the county in various directions, and received aſſiſtance from many gentlemen, and men of letters; but as the materials were ſtill defective, and as want of time and unfavourable weather prevented me from viſiting the ſequeſtered and mountainous diſtricts, I made a third excurſion in the autumn of the ſame year.

In the courſe of theſe three journies I employed five months, and traverſed 1500 miles, and now preſent to the public the reſult of my obſervations and reſearches.

In

In this work the reader muſt not expect to find a regular hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, but a deſcription of the principal places, intermixed with hiſtorical relations and biographical anecdotes, and embelliſhed with the moſt ſtriking views, for which I am principally indebted to my friend ſir Richard Hoare, whoſe perſevering zeal and activity claim my warmeſt gratitude.

To his grace the duke of Beaufort, I beg leave to expreſs my grateful acknowledgments for empowering his agents in Monmouthſhire to ſupply me with information, and for permitting me to have drawings taken from the portraits of his illuſtrious anceſtors at Badminton and Troy houſe, from which I have given engravings of ſir Charles Somerſet, firſt earl of Worceſter, of the gallant defender of Raglan caſtle, and of Edward, ſecond marquis of Worceſter.

To the following gentlemen of the county, who favoured me with a kind and hoſpitable reception, and promoted my reſearches, I am proud to acknowledge my obligations and gratitude:

William Dinwoodie, eſq. of Twydee.

James Green, eſq. of Lanſanfraed, M. P. for Arundel.

John Jones, eſq. of Lanarth Court.

William Jones, eſq. of Clytha Houſe.

William Kemeys, eſq. of Mayndee.

Capel Hanbury Leigh, eſq. of Pont y Pool Park.

Charles Lewis, eſq. of St. Pierre.

Richard Lewis, eſq. of Landeilo.

Sir Charles Morgan, of Tredegar, bart. member for the county.

William Nicholl, eſq. of Caerleon.

Benjamin Waddington, eſq. of Lanover, now high ſheriff for the county.

Mark Wood, eſq. of Piercefield, M. P. for Newark, formerly chief engineer at Bengal.

Alſo to George Kemeys, eſq. of Malpas.

John Rickards, eſq. proprietor of Lanſanfraed.

Sir Robert Saluſbury, of Lanwern, Bart. M. P. for Brecknock, and

Thomas Swinnerton, eſq. of Butterton hall in Staffordſhire, and of Wonaſtow houſe in the county of Monmouth.

In

In regard to literary aſſiſtance and local information, my firſt acknowledgments are due to the Rev. Mr. Evans, vicar of St. Woolos, for his active co-operation, and indefatigable exertions, as well during my continuance in the county, as by a conſtant correſpondence ſince my return.

To Thomas Jennings, eſq. collector of the Cuſtoms of Chepſtow, I am conſiderably indebted for various communications, and numerous ſketches, which have greatly aſſiſted in elucidating the work.

My thanks are likewiſe particularly due to

The Rev. Duncombe Davies, vicar of St. Mary's Monmouth.

The Rev. William Jones, of the Piſtill.

The Rev. John Mulſo, of Abergavenny.

The Rev. William Powell, of White houſe, near Abergavenny, now ſeated at Leidet, near Monmouth.

The Rev. Thomas Proſſer, lecturer of the Free School at Monmouth.

The Rev. William Roberts, of Perthîr.

And to the Rev. John Williams, vicar of Pont y pool.

Nor can I withhold a tribute of gratitude for the valuable aſſiſtance which I derived from Mr. Owen Tudor, bookſeller at Monmouth, and his two ſons, Meſſrs. John and Thomas Tudor, who vied with each other in rendering me ſervice, and from whom I received numerous Plans and Sketches.

Mr. William Owen, the learned author of the Welſh and Engliſh Dictionary, kindly obliged me with various intereſting communications relating to the hiſtory and language of Wales, and the dialect of Gwent, moſt of which are inſerted in the Appendix.

The earl of Liverpool, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaſter, having granted permiſſion to conſult the archives, R. J. Harper, eſq. deſerves my beſt thanks for his readineſs and zeal in facilitating my enquiries.

I muſt alſo expreſs my acknowledgments to Francis Townſhend, eſq. Windſor Herald, for liberally opening the records of the Heralds' Office, and elucidating the pedigrees of ſeveral illuſtrious families.

Without the kind aſſiſtance of my friend the Rev. Thomas Leman, whoſe

knowledge of Roman antiquities is unqueſtionable, I ſhould have not have preſumed to give the Introductory chapter, and maps relating to the Roman ſtations and roads. But notwithſtanding his valuable communications, which aſcertain the direction of the Julia Strata from Bath to the banks of the Severn, and the poſition of the ſtations in Monmouthſhire and the adjacent counties, I am too conſcious of my ſcanty acquaintance with this branch of antiquities, and the difficulty of the ſubject, not to be apprehenſive, that the antiquary will find great deficiency in this part of the work.

To my friend Henry Penruddocke Wyndham, eſq. M. P. for the county of Wilts, and author of the firſt intereſting Tour in Monmouthſhire and Wales, my thanks are due for communicating Grimm's drawing of the inſide view of Tintern abbey, and for the uſe of his valuable library.

I cannot cloſe the liſt of benefactors to this work, without expreſſing my gratitude for the valuable aſſiſtance I derived from my friend Francis Freeling, eſq. ſecretary to the poſt-maſters general; he favoured me with letters to the principal poſt-maſters of the county; he procured me acceſs to the plans of the poſt roads preſerved in the office, which greatly contributed to the improvement of the map, and obtained the tables of exports and imports, from the late much lamented Thomas Irving, eſq. inſpector general of the exports and imports.

To Miſs Edith Palmer, of Bath, I owe the elegant views of Clytha caſtle and gateway, with the chain of mountains and hills in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny, of Lanover church, and of the ruins of Abergavenny caſtle.

The antiquities of the county are illuſtrated with plans of the Roman ſtations, and ground plots of the principal caſtles and encampments, taken from actual ſurveys by Mr. Thomas Morrice, land ſurveyor, of Caerdiff; the biographical anecdotes are accompanied with the portraits of memorable perſons, moſt of which have never been engraved; and Mr. Byrne, of whoſe talents as an artiſt any eulogium is unneceſſary, muſt not be omitted in my acknowledgments, for the maſterly execution of the plates which he engraved.

I am

PREFACE.

I am happy to be able to add a plan of the celebrated grounds of Piercefield, kindly communicated by colonel Wood.

In the courſe of the work I have cited my authorities, and have given, at the end of the Appendix, a liſt of the books principally conſulted on this occaſion.

The names of the places are chiefly written according to the Welſh orthography, a few inſtances excepted, which are authorized by long cuſtom. I have likewiſe, with the aſſiſtance of Mr. Owen, ſubjoined an explanation of the common names employed in the courſe of this work, and the mode of their pronunciation.

The map which accompanies this work, was compiled by Mr. Nathaniel Coltman, from the beſt authorities which could be procured.

The boundaries of the county on the ſides of Gloceſterſhire, Herefordſhire, and Glamorganſhire, were delineated from Taylor's ſurveys of Gloceſterſhire and Herefordſhire, and from Yates's ſurvey of Glamorganſhire; the boundaries on the ſide of Brecknockſhire are taken from the maps of South Wales, the plan of the Monmouthſhire and Brecknockſhire canal, and corrected by my own obſervations.

The latitude and longitude of Monmouth, which differ materially from thoſe of former delineations, were corrected by Mr. Arrowſmith, from whoſe kind communications the map received conſiderable improvement.

The principal high roads are laid down from the ſurveys of the poſt roads, made by order of the poſt-maſters general.

The canals, rail-roads, and the adjacent country, are given from the plan of the Monmouthſhire and Brecknockſhire canals, by Mr. T. Dadford, jun. engineer.

The reſt of the interior of the county is filled up from the beſt authorities extant, and the whole has been augmented and corrected, from my own journals and obſervations.

Directions for pronouncing particular letters in Welsh Orthography.

(Communicated by Mr. Owen.)

WELSH LETTERS.	THEIR POWERS.	WELSH LETTERS.	THEIR POWERS.
C	K	*F*	V, where ff is uſed for the f.
Ch, or *ç*	with a ſtrong guttural pronunciation, as the Greek *χ*, or as CH, in the German.	*I*	EE.
		Ll	HL, or L aſpirated.
		U	I, in *bliſs*, *this*, &c.
Dd, or *z*	TH, in *them*.	*W*	OO.
Th	TH, in *thought*.	*Y*	U, in *burn*.
G	G, in *good*.		

Vowels circumflexed are long, as in Engliſh monoſyllables with an E final; as Bôn, *bone*; Mân, *mane*, &c.

There are no quieſcent letters; nor do they alter, or undergo any modification of ſound: All the vowels are pronounced, even when two or three follow each other.

A Liſt of Common Welsh Words, occaſionally employed in the courſe of this Work.

WORDS.	PRONUNCIATION.	MEANING.
Aber		a confluence, or the fall of one river into another.
Afon	Avon	a river.
Allt, or Gallt		a cliff.
Bach; fem. and in compoſition fach		little.
Bryn; in compoſition fryn, or vryn		a hill.
Caer; in compoſition Gaer		a fort.

Coed;

WORDS.	PRONUNCIATION.	MEANING.
Coed	Coyd	a wood.
Cefn	Keven	a ridge.
Carn		a heap of ſtones.
Clawdd	Clawthe	a dike.
Craig; in compoſition Graig		a rock or cliff.
Cwm	Coom	a glen, or deep valley.
Du Fem. and in compoſition Ddu	dee thee	black.
Fach; fem. of Bach	vach.	
Fawr; fem. of Mawr	vawr.	
Glan; in compoſition Lan		a bank.
Gwern; and in compoſition Wern		a watery meadow.
Gwyn; fem. Gwen; in compoſition Wyn, and fem. Wen.		white.
Llan; in compoſition Lan	Hlan	a church.
Llech; in compoſition Lech	Hlech	a flag or flat ſtone.
Maen; in compoſition faen	Maïn	a ſtone.
Maes; in compoſition fäes		a field; an open plain.
Mawr; fem. and in compoſition fawr		great.
Mynydd; in compoſition fynydd	Myneth	a mountain, or hill.
Pant; in compoſition Bant		a hollow.
Pen; in compoſition Ben		a head, top, or end.
Sarn		a cauſeway.
Tref or Tre; in compoſition Dref	Trè	a townſhip.
Ty; in compoſition dy	Tee	a houſe.

ERRATA.

Page 2. l. 4. *for* a larger iſland, *read* an iſland.
33. l. 12. *before* the, *inſert* in.
37. l. 13. *read* to Mr. Gardenor.
45. l. 8. from bottom, *for* forty-two, *read* forty-five.
83. l. 5. from bottom, *for* Secundæ, *read* Secundâ.
85. l. 12. *for* Mr. Nichols, *read* Mr. Nicholl.
90. l. 6. *after* there, *inſert* is.
97. l. 3. of the Note, firſt column, *for* 87, *read* 57.
Ib. l. 10. of the ſecond column, *for* temporæ *read* tempore.
131 Note. The line of deſcent in the Pedigree ſhould be carried from Sir Richard Herbert and Margaret his wife, to Sir William, Baron Herbert, &c.
174. l. 6. *after* de *dele* in.
180. l. 10. *for* ſon *read* grandſon.
Ib. l. 12. *for* brother, *read* couſin.
203. l. 11 and 12. *dele* what is included in the crotchets.
214. l. 13. *after* well, *inſert* as.
262. l. 1. *for* but, *read* which.
330. l. laſt. *for* Bach, ſixth ſon of Cadivor ap Gwaithvoed, or Cadivor Vawr, *read* Bach, ſixth ſon of Gwaithvoed, and brother of Cadivor Vawr.
333. l. 8. from bottom, *dele* to.
335. l. 3. from bottom, *after* and *inſert* on.
350. l. 6. *for* right, *read* left.
Ib. l. 7. *for* left *read* right.
368. l. 17. *for* proof, *read* roof.
411. l. 5. of the ſecond column of the Note, *for* Myvy *read* Myvyr.
418. l. 15. *for* forſan *read* forſan.

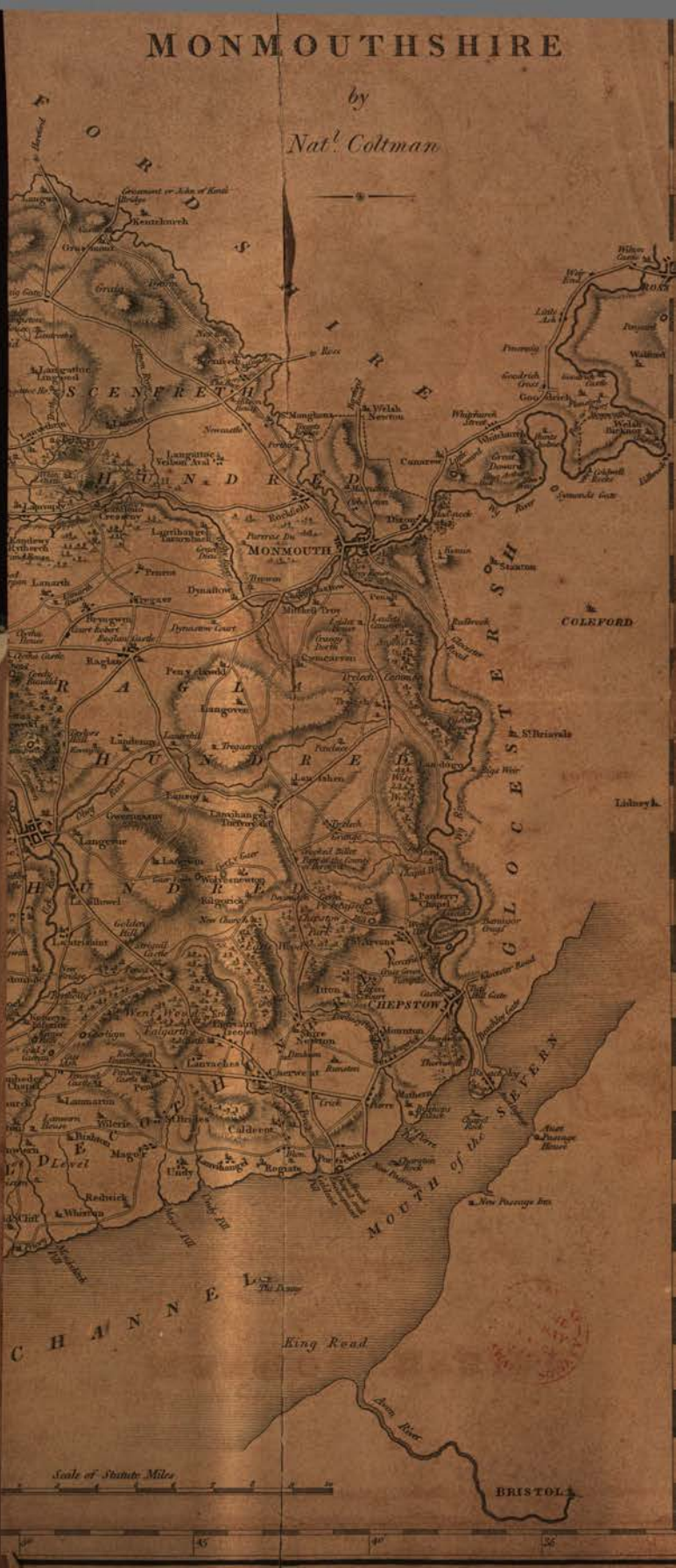
In page 184, I was miſtaken, in aſſerting that the ſeat of the prior in the church of Abergavenny is ſurmounted with a mitre: I was deceived by the appearance of the gothic ornaments, which are extremely dilapidated. The miſtake was kindly corrected by my friend Mr. Dinwoody.

In page 219, the ſite of Lanthony Abbey is ſaid to be the property of the earl of Oxford, but ſince that ſheet was printed, colonel Wood of Pierceſield has purchaſed all the property of the earl of Oxford in the pariſh of Cwmyoi, and thoſe beautiful remains now belong to the proprietor of Pierceſield.

MONMOUTHSHIRE

by

Nat.l Coltman



INTRODUCTION.

SECTION I.

Monmouthſhire.—Situation and Boundaries.—Rivers.—Hundreds.—Population.—Languages.—Situation in the Roman, Britiſh, Saxon, and Norman Periods.—Reduced to an Engliſh County.

MONMOUTHSHIRE, which derives its name from the capital town, though now an Engliſh county, may be juſtly conſidered the connecting link between England and Wales; as it unites the ſcenery, manners, and language of both. It is ſurrounded by the counties of Somerſet, Gloceſter, Hereford, Brecknock, and Glamorgan; from which it is principally ſeparated by the Severn, the Wy, the Monnow, and the Rumney.

The principal rivers which traverſe Monmouthſhire are the Wy, the Uſk, and the Rumney. The Wy is navigable during its whole courſe through the county; the Uſk, by means of the tide, from New Bridge near Tredonnoc; and the Rumney only from the bridge, not three miles from its mouth. The Trothy and the Monnow, joined by the Honddy at Altyrynnys, fall into the Wy near Monmouth; and the Uſk is ſwelled by numerous mountain torrents, of which the principal are the Gavenny, the Kebby, the Olwy, the Berthin, the Torvaen or Avon Lwyd, and the Ebwy, which receives the Sorwy.

The county ſends two members to parliament, and is divided into the ſix hundreds of Abergavenny, Scenfreth, Wentloog, Uſk, Raglan, and Caldecot. The population may be conjectured from the number of men between fifteen and ſixty, returned in 1798 in the ſeveral hundreds as capable of bearing arms, which

amounted to 11,835*. If the proportion of the males between fifteen and ſixty may be eſtimated at one fourth of the whole population, including both ſexes, the number of ſouls in the county of Monmouth will be 47,340, or in round numbers 48,000.

Monmouthſhire is compriſed in the dioceſe of Landaff, except Dixon, Welſh Bicknor, and St. Mary's church in Monmouth, which belong to the dioceſe of Hereford, as do Cwmyoy, Oldcaſtle, and Lanthony, to that of St. David.

The Welſh language is more prevalent than is uſually ſuppoſed: in the north-eaſtern, eaſtern, and ſouth-eaſtern parts, the Engliſh tongue is in common uſe; but in the ſouth-weſtern, weſtern, and north-weſtern diſtricts, the Welſh, excepting in the towns, is generally ſpoken. The natives of the midland parts are accuſtomed to both languages: in ſeveral places divine ſervice is performed wholly in Welſh, in others in Engliſh, and in ſome alternately in both. The natives of the weſtern parts, which are ſequeſtered and mountainous, unwillingly hold intercourſe with the Engliſh, retain their ancient prejudices, and ſtill brand them with the name of *Saxons*; this antipathy, however, is gradually decreaſing, by means of the eſtabliſhment of Engliſh ſchools, and the introduction of Engliſh manners, cuſtoms, and manufactures.

The language ſpoken in the counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan is the Gwentian, or one of the three principal dialects of Wales, in which many of the beſt Welſh odes are compoſed. Specimens of this dialect, together with a critical diſquiſition on its characteriſtics, kindly communicated by Mr. Owen, the learned Author of the Britiſh Dictionary, are inſerted in the Appendix.

The animal and vegetable productions are ſimilar to thoſe in the hilly counties of England; and the only fiſh, not common in the Engliſh rivers, are the ſkerling, and the ſewin, which principally abounds in the Ebwy. The mountainous diſtricts

* Number of Men in the county of Monmouth, May 1798.

Abergavenny, two diviſions	2,834	Brought forward	7,426
Scenfreth	1,589	Caldecot, ſerving at Chepſtow	119
Raglan	1,466	Uſk	1,456
Caldecot	1,537	Wentloog (ſuppoſed)	2,834
	7,426		4,409
		Total	11,835

diſtricts are rich in mineral productions, particularly iron and coal, which have given riſe to numerous iron manufactories *, and conſiderably increaſed the population and riches of the county.

At the time of the Roman invaſion Monmouthſhire was part of the territory inhabited by the Silures, which, beſides this diſtrict, comprehended the counties of Glamorgan, Brecknock, Radnor, Hereford, and ſuch parts of Gloceſterſhire, Worceſterſhire, and Caermarthenſhire as lay between the Severn, the Teme, and the Towy. Caerwent, which afterwards became a Roman ſtation under the name of Venta Silurum, was their capital; and their other principal towns were Magna (Kencheſter) Gobannium (Abergavenny) Ariconium (Roſe or Berry hill near Roſs) and Iſca (Caerleon.) This warlike people had conquered, or were in alliance with two other tribes, the Ordovices and the Dimetæ.

The Ordovices poſſeſſed all North Wales, except a ſmall diſtrict of Flintſhire, which belonged to the Carnabii, and ſome parts of Shropſhire.

The Dimetæ dwelt in the counties of South Wales, which were not poſſeſſed by the Silures, as Cardiganſhire, Pembrokeſhire, and Caermarthenſhire; their boundaries were on the ſide of the land, the Towy which ſeparated them from the Silures, and the Dovy from the Ordovices.

The

* A liſt of the principal manufactories in Monmouthſhire:

Sorwy	Pitcoal—furnace	Meſſrs. Monkhouſe and Co.
Ebwy	Pitcoal—furnace	Harford, Partridge, and Co.
Nant y glo	Pitcoal—two furnaces	Hill, Harford, and Co.
Blaenavon	Pitcoal—three furnaces	J. Hill and Co.
Abercarn	Pitcoal forge, and charcoal wire-work: a charcoal furnace not uſed	S. Glover, eſq.
Machen	Charcoal forge	Meſſrs. Harford, Partridge, and Co.
Gelliwaſtad	Charcoal forge	
Baſſaleg	Charcoal forge in Tredegar Park	
Caerleon	Charcoal forge; formerly belonging to	J. Blanning, eſq.
Pont y Pool	Charcoal furnace and forges	C. Leigh, eſq.
———	Two pitcoal furnaces	D. Tanner, eſq.
Lanſilio on the Monnow	Charcoal forge	
Troſtrey	Charcoal forges	Harvey, Waſon, and Co.
Monmouth	Charcoal forges	Meſſrs. Harford, Partridge, and Co.
Tintern Abbey	Charcoal furnace, forges, and wire-works	Mr. Thompſon.

Beſides theſe Iron works, there are alſo at

Rogeſton	Tin mills	J. Butler, eſq.
Caerleon	Large tin work	

The whole region inhabited by theſe three tribes, including Mona, or the Iſle of Angleſey, was denominated by the Romans *Britannia Secunda*, to diſtinguiſh it from the ſouthern parts of England, which were called *Britannia Prima*.

Having brought the natives of Britannia Prima under ſubjection, the Romans turned their arms againſt the Silures; but experienced great difficulties in the conqueſt of a country interſected by numerous and rapid rivers, broken by mountains, covered with foreſts, and defended by a warlike people, who made an unparalleled reſiſtance to the Roman arms, and were not brought into ſubjection until the reign of Veſpaſian, when they were conquered by Julius Frontinus.

Agricola ſucceeded Frontinus in the government of Britain. On his arrival in the country of the Silures he found the people entirely ſubdued, and, though the ſummer was paſt, inſtantly collected the troops, and marched againſt the Ordovices, who had recently cut off a ſquadron of Roman horſe ſtationed on their frontiers. Having finally ſubdued, or in the language of Tacitus, exterminated almoſt the whole nation, he advanced to the conqueſt of Angleſey, where the Britons had retired as to a place of ſecurity.

The Romans occupied the country of the Silures as a conquered province from the time of their firſt eſtabliſhment in the reign of Veſpaſian, to their final evacuation of Britain, in the year of Chriſt 408, a period of 330 years.

From their departure the hiſtory of Britain is uncertain, obſcure, and fabulous. The country was divided into petty ſovereignties, occaſionally at variance with each other, or over-run by the northern tribes. Many of the natives, particularly of the ſouthern and weſtern parts, frequently repaired to Armorica or Britanny, the inhabitants of which ſpoke a ſimilar language, and were ſuppoſed to be deſcended from the ſame anceſtors.

The Britons being attacked by numerous hordes of Picts and Scots, and long accuſtomed to rely on external aid, acted at firſt with weakneſs and trepidation, and were diſcomfited on all ſides. Deſpair at length called forth their native energy; they rallied, and collecting a formidable body, drove the enemy beyond the frontiers. In this ſtruggle they ſeem to have received troops and a ſovereign from Armorica.

Oldrean

Oldrean duke of Armorica, the fourth in deſcent from Conan, who received that kingdom from the emperor Maximus, (A. D. 385,) being applied to for aſſiſtance, ſent his brother Conſtantine with a conſiderable force. Having defeated the invaders, Conſtantine was raiſed to the crown by the gratitude of the natives, (A. D. 433) and from him deſcended a race of Armorican kings highly renowned in Britiſh ſtory.

It is aſſerted that Conſtans, the ſon and ſucceſſor of Conſtantine, after a ſhort reign, either died or was murdered by Vortigern *, a powerful prince in Britain, who ſeiſed the crown, and that Aurelius Ambroſius and Uther Pendragon, the infant ſons of Conſtantine, were conveyed to Armorica. Others ſuppoſe, that on the retreat of the Romans the Armorican princes were ſovereigns of the Damnonii, or Cornwall and Devonſhire, and ſubordinate to Vortigern, hereditary king of the Dimetæ, who either by election, intrigue, or force, became head or ſovereign of all the Britiſh tribes, from the channel to the Roman wall.

With a view to protect his dominions from the Picts and Scots, Vortigern, by the advice of the Britiſh chiefs, invited a corps of Anglo-Saxon mercenaries, under the celebrated Hengiſt; and having, with their aſſiſtance, driven back the northern invaders, gave a ſettlement in the Iſle of Thanet to his new allies. But the Saxons, joined by numerous bodies from the northern ſhores of Germany and Jutland, and forming an alliance with the Scots and Picts, ſoon turned their arms againſt the Britons, and ſuddenly invaded their country in different quarters. The Britons, though at firſt confounded, recovered from their deſpondency; they defended themſelves with great bravery; the Saxons met with alternate defeats and ſucceſſes, and did not finally eſtabliſh themſelves in the center of the kingdom without extreme difficulty †.

As Vortigern was the unfortunate cauſe of this Saxon invaſion, his character has been branded by the Britiſh writers, and all the miſeries of his unhappy country

* The real ſituation of Vortigern is not aſcertained; ſome call him ſovereign of the Silures, or Gwent; ſome king of the Dimetæ; ſome the king of the Damnonii, or Cornwall; and others conſul, or earl of the Gewiſſes.

† Mr. Whitaker has plainly proved, in oppoſition to the aſſertions of Gildas, which are adopted by Hume and others, that the Britons did not act with puſillanimity, but defended themſelves with great ſpirit and vigour. Hiſtory of Manchester, b. ii. chap. 1. To which account I am indebted for many judicious obſervations.

country imputed to him alone; while his ſon Vortimer, and Aurelius Ambroſius, who combated the Saxons with equal ſpirit and intrepidity, are extolled in the rhapſodies of the bards, which ſeem to form the principal foundation of the hiſtory of theſe times.

On the death or abdication* of Vortigern, Aurelius Ambroſius is ſaid to have become king of the Britiſh tribes, and to have reſiſted or attacked the Saxons in every quarter of the kingdom. All that is known of this great forerunner of Arthur is, that he was of Roman extraction; that his parents, who had aſſumed the purple, were killed at the commencement of the Saxon invaſion †; but whether he came from Armorica, was hereditary king of the Damnonii, or received that kingdom as the gift of Vortigern, is as uncertain as his lineage or the time of his birth. The extent and events of his reign have been differently repreſented: numerous victories over the Saxons have been by ſome attributed to his proweſs and judgment, while by others eleven battles, of which the names are mentioned by Nennius, have been aſcribed to Arthur, whoſe controverted hiſtory it is equally difficult to elucidate or explain.

In the legends of this uncertain period, Gwent or Monmouthſhire is often a conſpicuous ſcene; its ſovereigns, Uther Pendragon and the renowned Arthur, are repreſented as equal in fame and exploits to the greateſt heroes of Greece and Italy; and Caerleon is ſuppoſed to rival the ſplendor of ancient Rome ‡

To repeat the fabulous ſtories of Geoffrey of Monmouth would be to inſult the reader's underſtanding; and the traditional ſongs of the bards are too uncertain and unconnected to form the baſis of genuine hiſtory. Should, however, the aſtoniſhing exploits and unparalleled victories of Arthur be admitted as facts, they only contributed to retard, not to ſuppreſs the growing power of the Saxons, who rapidly extended their conqueſts over that part of Britain now called England, and formed ſeven kingdoms, which were finally conſolidated by Egbert into one great monarchy, (827.)

In

* According to ſome, Vortigern was beſieged by Aurelius and the Britons, and burnt with the tower which he was defending againſt them; according to others, he reſigned the crown of Britain in favour of Aurelius, and retired to the mountains of Wales, where he became a hermit. See Nennius, and Pennant's intereſting account of the place of his ſuppoſed retreat; Tour in Wales, vol. 2. p. 213.

† Gildas.

‡ See p. 295.

In theſe conflicts, ſome of the Britons fled into Cornwall and Armorica; but greater numbers, who eſcaped from the ſword of the enemy, retired indignantly to the mountains of Wales, and joined the natives in their ſtruggle for liberty.

During the gradual eſtabliſhment of the heptarchy, the Saxons and Welſh princes were in a ſtate of almoſt uninterrupted warfare: the Saxons confined them within narrower limits, and after reducing them to the preſent boundaries of Wales and Monmouthſhire, compelled them to become tributary.

It is difficult to aſcertain the exact limits of the principalities into which Wales was divided during this period, as their number and names were continually changing by the fortune of war, and the prejudicial cuſtom of partitioning the dominions among all the ſons of the deceaſed prince. But the moſt certain and permanent diviſion was, 1. Gwynedd, or the greater part of North Wales; 2. Deheubarth, or the greater part of South Wales; 3. Powisland. *

Theſe three principalities were united in the perſon of Roderic the Great, and on his death (876) divided between his three ſons: Anarawd poſſeſſed Gwynedd; Cadelh, Deheubarth; and Merfyn, Powisland; Roderic alſo ordained by his will, "that his eldeſt ſon Anarawd and his ſucceſſors, *ſhould continue the payment of the ancient tribute to the crown of England*; and that the other two, their heirs and ſucceſſors, ſhould acknowledge his ſovereignty †."

It is ſtill more difficult to trace in thoſe obſcure times the hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, which was included in Deheubarth, ſometimes forming a ſeparate diſtrict under the name of Gwent, and at others comprehended in Morganoc, or the kingdom of Glamorgan, and divided into the hundreds of Gwentloog, and Edlogan, Gwent-under-wood, and Gwent-over-wood ‡. The ſucceſſion of its petty princes forms in the Welſh chronicles a mere catalogue of names, ſuppoſed to be a liſt of kings from Morgan the ſon of Arthur, to the final extinction of the line in the days of Henry the ſecond §.

At

* For an accurate account of the boundaries of Powisland, ſee Pennant's Wales, vol. 1. p. 212.

† Caradoc's Hiſtory of Wales, tranſlated by Powell, p. 35.

‡ See a curious paper in the Appendix, No. 2, which gives the diviſions of Morganoc, and proves the influence of the Saxon kings in this part of Wales.

§ Meirich the ſon of Ithel, king or prince of Gwent, died without iſſue male, leaving one daughter Morvyth,

At an early period Monmouthſhire was divided among ſeveral petty princes, uſually tributary to the kings of Glamorgan, or to the princes of South Wales, in whoſe territories Glamorgan was compriſed. But they withheld their tribute whenever thoſe princes were not in a ſituation to enforce obedience. Sometimes they aimed at independence, and one ſavage inſtance of their attempts is recorded in the hiſtory of Wales: in 983, an inſurection took place among the natives of Gwent; and Einion, deputed by his father Owen, prince of South Wales, to perſuade them to obedience, was maſſacred by the enraged multitude *.

It appears, however, that the warlike inhabitants of Gwent not only withdrew their allegiance from the princes of South Wales, but even occaſionally ventured to reſiſt the ſovereigns of England. Alfred made preparations to ſubdue Caerleon †; and Canute in 1034, entered ‡ the land of Gwent with a powerful army, and defeated Rytherch ap Jeſtin, prince of South Wales.

Some authors of credit are of opinion that Monmouthſhire, though late, was wholly conquered by the Saxons. The Saxon Chronicle in ſeveral inſtances ſeems to confirm this notion, by aſſerting that the kings of England ſubdued *all* Wales, took hoſtages, and compelled the natives to pay tribute. But theſe conqueſts were only temporary inroads, until the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, when Harold penetrated into the country at the head of a numerous army, defeated Griffith ſovereign of North Wales, gave a prince to South Wales, forced the natives to ſwear fealty, give hoſtages, and pay the cuſtomary

vyth, who eſpouſed Grono, great grandſon to Rees ap Theodore, prince of South Wales, and lineal anceſtor of ſir Owen Tudor, grandfather of Henry the ſeventh. "So that it appears, that the kings of Scotland and England are originally deſcended from Morvyth, this Gwentonian prince's daughter, and heir to Meyrick laſt king of Gwent, who, according to ſeveral authentic Britiſh pedigrees, was lineally deſcended from Cadwalladar, the laſt king of Britain, and, as our hiſtorians do teſtifie, did prognoſticate 1500 years paſt, that the heirs deſcended of his loins, ſhould be reſtored again to the kingdom of Britain, which was partly accompliſhed in king Henry vii. and more by the acceſſion of James i. to the Britiſh throne, but wholly fulfilled in the happy Union of all Britain, by the glorious queen ANNE; whom God long preſerve of his great goodneſs, and the ſucceſſion in the proteſtant line." Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, p. 57.

* Powell, p. 62.

† Ibid. p. 57. See p. 97. of this Work.

‡ Ibid. p. 83.

tomary tribute to the crown of England*; Harold conceived the conqueſt to be ſo ſecure, that he built a palace at Portſcwit †.

At this period the Saxons ſeem to have occupied Monmouth, Chepſtow, Caerwent, and Caerleon, and had their empire continued, all Monmouthſhire would have been ſpeedily added to their dominions. A temporary reſpite however was afforded by the Norman invaſion, and William was too much occupied with the Anglo-Saxons to form any ſettled plan for ſubduing Wales. But the Norman nobles retained thoſe places which the Saxons had conquered, and either built or ſtrengthened many caſtles near the frontiers of Monmouthſhire. Iſſuing from theſe fortreſſes they gradually occupied the whole county, which was not finally ſubdued until the reign of Henry the ſecond ‡, when the line of the petty kings or princes of Gwent was ſuppoſed to become extinct.

The invaſion of the Normans was wholly different from that of the Saxons: the conqueſts of the Saxons being made in the name and with the troops of the ſovereign, were annexed to the poſſeſſions, and ſubjected to the juriſdiction of the crown; but the Norman kings, engaged in foreign affairs, and employed in quelling inſurrections, were unable to extend their arms into Wales; the great barons therefore were invited to make incurſions at their own expence, and with their

* The native writers of Monmouthſhire boaſt, that their country was only ſubjected to the Roman yoke, but neither conquered by the Saxons, Danes, or early Normans; the author of the Secret Memoirs ſupports this in ſome indifferent verſes, which prove his patriotiſm rather than his taſte:

"To thee, brave Gwent! praiſe doth alone belong,
"Thou ne'er wor'ſt chains, impatient wer't of wrong:
"When Saxons, Danes, and Normans Britain ſway'd,
"Thou ſcorn'ſt the ſervile yoke on others laid;
"With courage great moſt bravely didſt maintain
"Thy rights, ſo long enjoy'd; may they remain*, &c.

† See p. 17.

‡ The author of the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire gives a curious account of their ſubmiſſion. "But we find not that the Gwentonians were totally ſubdued, but rather capitulated in the time of king Henry ii, who coming thro' that country with his army for Ireland, paſſed over a brook called Nant-pen-Carne, held fatal by the inhabitants of that country, who were over-credulous of a prophecy of Merlin Silveſter, the Britiſh Apollo, who had prognoſticated, that when a ſtout and freckled-fac'd king (ſuch as king Henry was) ſhould paſs over that brook, that the power of the Britons in thoſe parts ſhould be brought under; whereby their courage was abated, and that country brought ſoon into ſubjection to that king and his ſucceſſors."

It is moſt probable that the ford called Nant-pen-Carne, was Nant Bengam, or the river Rumney near the bridge, and not far from a farm-houſe now called Bengam. It could not be on the weſtern ſide of the Rumney, becauſe Giraldus ſays it was ſituated in "Novi Burgi finibus, or within the limits of Newport lordſhip," and Leland obſerves, that the "Lordſhip of Newport be likelyhood ſhould ſtrech to the ryver of Remny, limes Morganiæ."

Leland's Itin. vol. 5. fol. 6.

* P. 57.

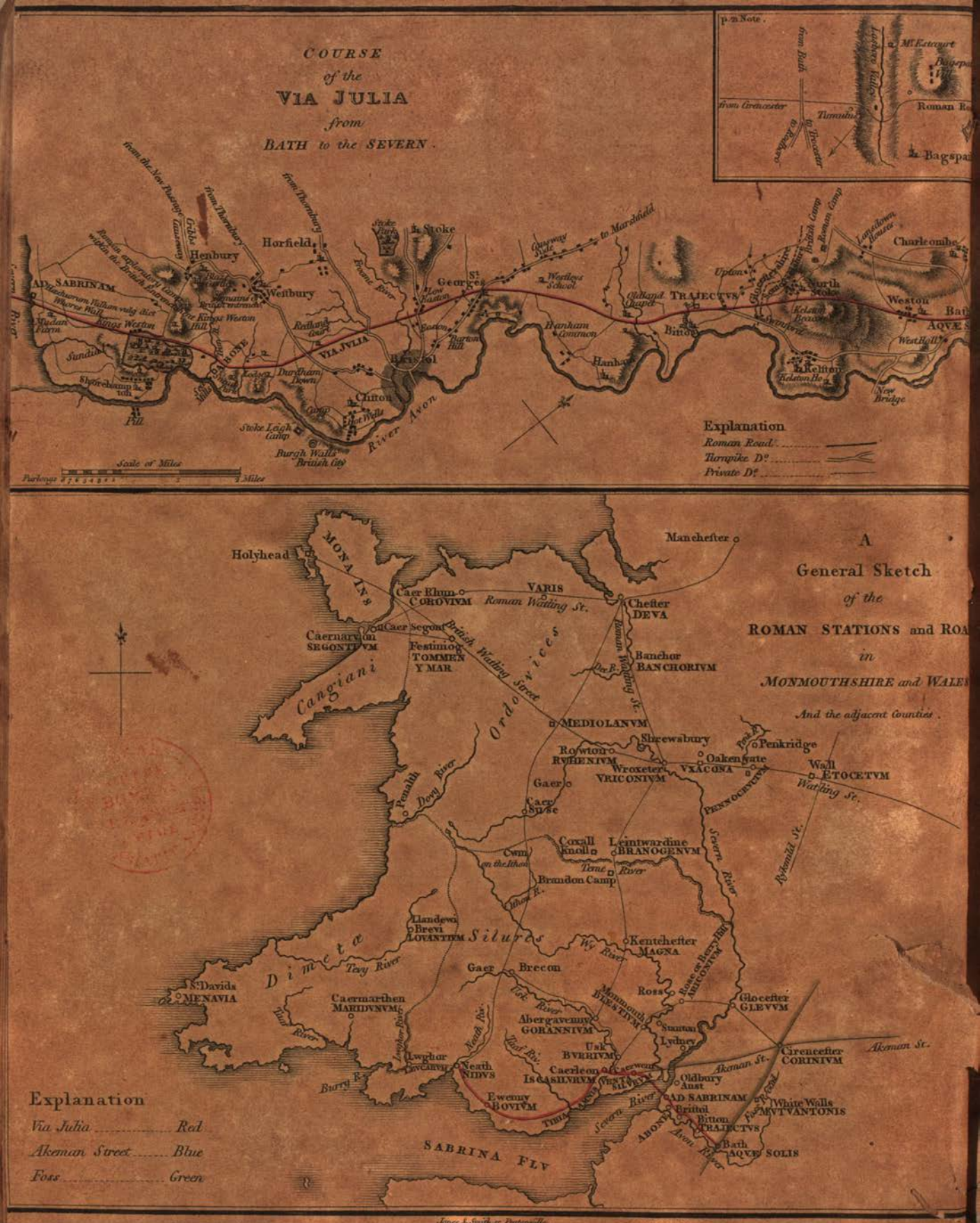
their own retainers; were rewarded with the lands gained from the Welſh, and created peers, by the title of lords barons, in the places which they over-ran.

They held theſe lands from the crown as feudal tenures, built caſtles for themſelves, and towns for their followers; became deſpots in their reſpective demeſnes, awed the crown, when worn by weak princes, and arrogated to themſelves an almoſt independent ſovereignty. Hence aroſe the numerous caſtles and lordſhips with which Wales abounded: Pennant aſſerts that there were no leſs than 143 *; of this number Monmouthſhire alone contained at leaſt twenty-five, the ſites of which may ſtill be traced †. "Theſe lands," ſays Enderbie, "being holden per baroniam, with full power to adminiſter juſtice unto their tenants, were inveſted with divers privileges, franchiſes, and immunities, ſo that the writs of ordinary juſtices, out of the king's courts were not current among them. But in caſe of ſtrife between two barons marchers concerning their territories or confines, for want of a ſuperior, they had recourſe to the king, their ſupreme lord, and juſtice was adminiſtered to them in the ſuperior courts of the realm."

Such was the wretched ſtate of feudal juriſprudence in Monmouthſhire, as well as in the other marches of Wales, till Henry the eighth aboliſhed the government of the lords' marchers, divided Wales into twelve ſhires, and included Monmouthſhire among the counties of England; a happy change from the oppreſſion of feudal tyranny, to the juſt and equal adminiſtration of Engliſh laws!

* Tour in Wales, vol. 2. p. 452.

† The great number of caſtles in Monmouthſhire, muſt be attributed to its poſition as a barrier betwixt the Engliſh and Welſh. A regular chain of fortreſſes ſeems to have been firſt formed or occupied by the Normans on the banks of the Monnow, the Wy, and the Severn; theſe are Scenfreth, Groſmont, Monmouth, Trelech, perhaps Tintern, Chepſtow, and Caldecot. A ſecond line ſtretches diagonally from Groſmont to the banks of the Rumney, which indicates their gradual progreſs; theſe are White Caſtle, Tregaer, Uſk, Langibby, Caerleon, and Newport. As I have already obſerved, p. 208, this diagonal line, with the caſtle of Abergavenny, was probably intended to curb the mountaineers, who made perpetual incurſions on their invaders. In addition to theſe ſtrong fortreſſes, ſeveral ſmaller caſtles, or rather caſtellated manſions, were conſtructed for the purpoſe of keeping the natives in awe; theſe are ſcattered in various parts of the county, ſuch as Raglan, which at firſt was only an Agrarian fortreſs, Striguil, Dinham, Lanvair, Lanvaches, Penhow, Pencoed, Biſhton, Wilcric, Greenfield, Rogeſton, and Caſtleton.


COURSE
of the
VIA JULIA
from
BATH to the SEVERN.
p. 2 Note.
from Bath
Langridge Valley
Mt Eckwort
Barrow
Tumulus
from Cirencester
to Bath
to Frocester
Roman Ro
Bagspa
from the New Passage Causeway
Gibbs
from Thornbury
Henbury
Horfield
Stoke
Stoke Park
Frome River
St George
Lees Easton
Westleys School
Gloucester Road
to Marshfield
Upton
Gallows Hill
British camp
Roman camp
Longdown House
Charlcombe
North Stoke
Weston
Bath
AQVÆ S
West Hall
Kelston House
Kelston Ho
New Bridge
AD SABRINAM
Wentwood
Wilcrow Wall
Kingsweston
Kings Weston Hill
Redland Court
Wenbury
Sundial Farm
Sundial
Shirehampton
Pill
Durdham Down
Clifton
Hot Wells
Stoke Leigh Camp
Burgh Walls British City
River Avon
Bristol
Gallard Chapel
TRAJECTVS
Barton Hill
Easton
Brandon Hill
Hanham Common
Hanham
Bitton
Kelston
Explanation
Roman Road
Turnpike Dº
Private Dº
Scale of Miles
Furlongs
Miles
A
General Sketch
of the
ROMAN STATIONS and ROA
in
MONMOUTHSHIRE and WALE
And the adjacent Counties.
Manchester
Holyhead
MONA
Caer Rhun
COROVIVM
VARIS
Roman Watling St.
Chester
DEVA
Caernarvon
SEGONTIVM
Caer Segont
Festiniog
TOMMEN
Y MAR
British Watling Street
Banchor
BANCHORIVM
Dee R.
Roman Watling St.
Cangiani
Ordovices
MEDIOLANVM
Shrewsbury
Penkridge
Pool R.
Rowton
RVHENIVM
Oakengate
Wall
ETOCETVM
Wroxeter
VXACONA
VRICONIVM
Watling St.
Gaer
Caer Sulse
Penalth
Dovy River
PENNOCRVCIVM
Severn River
Ryknield St.
Coxall Knoll
Leintwardine
BRANOGENVM
Cwm on the Ithon
Teme River
Brandon Camp
Ithon R.
Llandeilo
Brevi
LOVANTIVM
Silures
Kentchester
MAGNA
Wy River
Dimetæ
Teivy River
Gaer
Brecon
S. Davids
MENAVIA
Caermarthen
MARIDVNVM
Tave River
Ross
Rosas or Perry Hill
ARICONIVM
Gloucester
GLEVVM
Monmouth
BLESTIVM
Usk R.
Abergavenny
GORANNIVM
Taff River
Lydney
Cirencester
CORINIVM
Akeman St.
Lwghor
Leychor R.
Neath R.
Neath
NIDVS
Usk
BVRRIVM
Caerleon
Caerwent
Oldbury
Aust
Burry R.
Ewenny
BOVIVM
Is CASILVRVM
VENTA SILVRVM
AD SABRINAM
Bristol
Bitton
TRAJECTVS
White Walls
MVTVANTONIS
Foss Road
Severn River
Avon
Avon River
Bath
AQVÆ SOLIS
SABRINA FLV
Explanation
Via Julia ..... Red
Akeman Street ..... Blue
Foss ..... Green
Isaac Smith sc. Bristol.

SECTION 2.

Roman Stations and Roads in Monmouthſhire.—Courſe of the Julia Strata from Bath to the Confines of Glamorganſhire.

THE Romans having poſſeſſed the country of the Silures as a conquered province during three hundred years, built ſeveral towns, and formed many forts and encampments, for the purpoſe of keeping the natives, who were a warlike race, in ſubjection. Several of the ſtations were placed in that part of the province now called Monmouthſhire, and are mentioned in the Itineraries of Antonine and Richard of Cirenceſter.

The ſtations acknowledged to be Roman, by the concurrent teſtimony of commentators and antiquaries are *Iſca Silurum* (Caerleon) *Venta Silurum* (Caerwent) and *Gobannium* (Abergavenny). Two other ſtations, *Burrium* and *Bleſtium*, which are mentioned in the Itinerary, are alſo better fixed by Horſley at Uſk and Monmouth, than by others at Old Caſtle or Longtown, and Caerphilly.

Burrium* is mentioned in the twelfth and thirteenth Iters of Antonine, and in the thirteenth and fourteenth of Richard, as the firſt ſtation from Iſca Silurum towards Uriconium and Glevum, which are admitted to be Wroxeter and Gloceſter. The line of the Itinerary from Iſca paſſed the ſtations of Burrium, M. Pviiii, Gobannium xii, Magna xxii, and Bravinium or Branogenium xxiiii, to Urioconium† xxvii, making a diſtance, according to Antonine, of 93 miles.

* It is called by Richard, in the 13th Iter, Bultrum; and in the 14th Ballium.

† In the different editions of Antonine, this Roman town is called Urioconium, Viroconium, and Viricomium; by Richard, Urioconium, Virioconium, and Viriconium, and by Ptolemy Viroconium, but its general appellation is Urioconium.

Mr. Shaw, in his hiſtory of Staffordſhire, Introduction, p. 28, having denied that Wroxeter is the ſite of Urioconium, in oppoſition to the general opinion of

93 * miles, which agrees with the preſent diſtance nearly in a ſtraight direction between Caerleon and Wroxeter. Burrium, therefore, muſt have been placed in ſome part of this line at the diſtance of about eight or nine Roman miles from Caerleon, a poſition which exactly correſponds with the ſituation of Uſk; its diſtance alſo from Abergavenny equally agrees with the diſtance of Burrium from Gobannium.

This point being once admitted, it follows, unqueſtionably, that *Bleſtium* cannot be Old Caſtle or Longtown, but muſt be Monmouth; becauſe the diſtance from Uſk coincides with the diſtance from *Burrium* to *Bleſtium*, as well as the diſtance of Bleſtium from Glevum or Gloceſter, by Ariconium, Roſe or Berry hill, the ſtation near Roſs. This ſyſtem is perfectly ſimple, and agrees with the Itineraries of Antonine and Richard, while no other can be adopted which is not attended with inſuperable difficulties †.

Although the poſitions of the ſtations in Monmouthſhire are aſcertained, yet much difficulty occurs in fixing the Roman roads which connected them, and communicated with the ſtations in the neighbouring counties, particularly as moſt of the great roads leading from the Roman provinces eaſt of the Severn to the ſouthern part of Britannia Secunda, or South Wales, muſt have united in, or paſſed through Monmouthſhire. This difficulty has principally ariſen from the general bogginess of the ſoil, in which the roads may have ſunk or been covered;

of our beſt antiquaries, I ſhall give the principal proofs on which that opinion is juſtly founded, leſt his reſpectable authority ſhould miſlead the reader.

1. Wroxeter is unanimouſly allowed to have been the ſite of a Roman ſtation; veſtiges of the Roman wall's ſtill remain, and the form of the fortreſs was actually traced by Horſley; baths, teſſelated pavements, coins, and other Roman antiquities have been there diſcovered in great quantities.

2. Uriconium, or Viroconium, is placed by Ptolemy in the country of the Carnabii, on the banks of the Severn, near the boundaries of the Ordovices, and north of the country of the Silures; a ſituation which exactly correſponds with that of Wroxeter.

3. In the ſecond Iter of Richard, Urioconium (Viriocconium) is placed on the Watling ſtreet, in the line of the road leading from Rutupis or Richborough in Kent, through London to Segontium, or Caer Segont in North Wales. The biſhop of Cloyne and Mr. Leman traced the Watling ſtreet from Richborough to Wroxeter, found every part of it *ſtill* diſtinguiſhed by that peculiar name, and the poſition of Wroxeter, on the Watling ſtreet, according with that of Uriconium, in the Itinerary.

4. The ſituation of Urioconium being thus aſcertained, general Roy has unqueſtionably proved that the twelfth Iter of Antonine from Iſca, (Caerleon) to Urioconium, (Wroxeter) could take no other direction than through Uſk and Abergavenny. See Camden, Horſley, Maſon, Stukeley, Gale, Roy's Military Antiquities, p. 171; and Reynolds's Iter Britanniarum, p. 206.

* According to Richard 94.

† See table of the Iters, from the different copies of the Itinerary, p. 15, 17, and 22, of this chapter, and the annexed map of the Roman roads and ſtations.

covered; from the frequent inundations, which have ſwept away all traces of human art; from the cultivated ſtate of thoſe parts of the country in which the ſtations were ſituated; and from the cuſtom of pitching the roads and path-ways, and of planting the hedge-rows on broad and high embankments, the foundations of which are generally formed with large ſtones. Theſe local diſ-advantages, added to the remoteneſs of the county, and the bad ſtate of the roads before the formation of turnpikes, impeded the reſearches of antiquaries, and ſcarcely any traces of Roman roads have been diſcovered, except the cauſe-way leading from Crick village through Caerwent to Caerleon. After all the reſearches of the learned on this ſubject, much remains to be aſcertained, and the field of conjecture is ſtill open.

It is generally acknowledged that the Julia Strata led from Bath, through the counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan, to Caermarthen and St. David's. The cleareſt method of attempting to aſcertain its route through Monmouth-ſhire, will be to compare the eleventh Iter of Richard's Itinerary, which deſcribes the whole courſe, with thoſe parts of the twelfth and fourteenth Iters of Antonine, in which moſt of the ſame ſtations are mentioned.

Theſe Iters trace the Julia Strata from Bath acroſs the Severn through Caer-went and Caerleon, to the firſt ſtation in Glamorganſhire; it is therefore neceſſary to fix its route towards the Severn, and aſcertain the point of embarkation, which has been placed by different writers at Portſhead, Aunſbury, Henbury, New Paſſage, Auſt, and Oldbury. Hence the landing place on the oppoſite ſhore has been rendered equally doubtful, and aſſigned to Tydenham, Chepſtow, Beachley, Black Rock, and Sudbrook or Portſcwit. By the kind aſſiſtance of my friend the Reverend Thomas Leman, whoſe knowledge of Roman antiquities is unqueſtion-able, and who has attentively examined the country, I am enabled to delineate the courſe of that part of the Julia Strata, or Via Julia, which paſſed from Bath to the Severn.

"The Via Julia ran from Bath, by a ſmall lane called Weſton lane, leaving the church of Weſton to the north, and inſtead of turning up with the preſent road at the end of the village towards Lanſdown, continued ſtraight through the valley, now an obſcure track, till it joined the preſent horſe-road to North Stoke.

It

It aſcended the hill, leaving Kelweſton beacon on the left, and paſſing under the ſtrong Britiſh poſt on North Stoke brow, entered the village of North Stoke by the name of the Foſs road *; but keeping on the edge of the hill, and leaving the village to the right, deſcended with a ſweep to the preſent upper turnpike road, which it joined about a quarter of a mile before it reached Bitton, where, near the confluence of the Boyd with the Avon, was the ſtation of Trajectus †."

" From Bitton it continued with the preſent upper Briſtol turnpike as far as the new church of St. George near Briſtol, from thence croſſed the flat ground, leaving the new church of St. Paul about a furlong to the left, and joined the road to Redlands, about a furlong from Stoke Croft turnpike. After paſſing Redland Court, it went ſtraight forward, nearly in the track of a ſmall road, which ſtill partly exiſts, leaving the preſent great road to the right, and aſcending Durdham Down, at the back of Mr. Daubeney's houſe, came on the hill near the lime kiln houſe ‡. The Roman ſtreet now croſſing the road from Clifton to Redland, near the *tree on which is placed a direction poſt*, is tolerably conſpicuous until it falls into the turnpike from Shirehampton, which it croſſes alſo at the very ſpot where it is joined by the road from the Wells. From this place *it is ſtill highly raiſed and viſible* over the remainder of Durdham Down, and running between Durdham Lodge and ſtable, croſſes a field or two, leaving another houſe, called Pigeon Pie, a few yards to the left, continues under the wall of Snead park, mounts the hill, and gently deſcending enters the great ſtation of Sea Mills, or Abone."

" From Abone, paved remains of the road ſtill exiſt, as it paſſes a farm houſe of lord de Clifford's. It then runs through ſome incloſures, enters the Shirehampton turnpike, near the end of lord de Clifford's grounds; and continuing between the inn on King's Weſton Hill, and lord de Clifford's houſe, deſcends between the manſion and the ſtables, and paſſes ſtraight by Madam Farm §, till it

* When a ſmall road approached a greater, it often aſſumed the name of the greater, though paſſing in an oppoſite direction to its general courſe.

† Called by Richard, Abone.

‡ See the ſketch of this track on the plate annexed to this chapter.

§ It is a curious circumſtance, that the drain called "*Where's Wall*," and the little ſtream which runs near our Roman road, form the boundaries of an inſulated part of the hundred of Berkley: the name given to the drain was probably a corruption of "Hæduorum Vallum," and was originally the communication by water from the Severn to the great fortified poſt on King's Weſton Hill; in the extreme corner of which was afterwards placed the Roman exploratory camp, marked A.

it joins the banks of the Severn. From hence was the paſſage into Wales, and part of the road, from the oppoſite ſide of the river to Caerwent (the Venta Silurum) exiſted ſtill paved only a few years ago.

" To explain the reaſon for placing Trajectus, Abone, and ad Sabrinam, at Bitton, Sea Mills, and the Severn ſide, I muſt refer the reader to the reſpective Itineraries of Antonine and Richard, and ſhall attempt to reconcile their apparent agreement."

Antonini Iter XIV inverſum.		Ricardi Iter XI.	
Ab Aquis Solis.		Ab Aquis per Viam Juliam, Menapiam uſque, ſic	
Trajectus	VI.	Ad Abonam	M. P. VI.
		Ad Sabrinam	VI.
Abone	VIIII.	Unde Trajectu intras in Britanniam Secundam et Stationem, Trajectum	M. P. III.
Venta Silurum	VIIII.	Venta Silurum	VIII.
Iſca	VIIII.	Iſca Colonia	VIIII.
	XXXIII		XXXII.

" The names of the places may have been tranſpoſed, the numerals being written in Roman capitals may have been changed; yet as both theſe authors agree in fixing the ſame route between the two ſtations of Aquæ Solis and Iſca (which are undoubtedly Bath and Caerleon) with only the trifling difference of one mile, ſuch a ſtrong coincidence of circumſtances, ſhould have prevented the numerous errors of commentators; particularly as traces of the Roman road ſtill exiſt between them, and the diſtance from Bath to Caerleon nearly correſponds with the numbers of the Itineraries."

" As both Antonine and Richard agree in affixing VI to the firſt ſtation, there is no reaſon to infer (as ſome writers have done) that VI is a corruption of XI, unleſs no veſtiges of a ſtation could be diſcovered at the diſtance of ſix miles. But at Bitton, exactly ſix miles from Bath, there are evident traces of a Roman camp, accompanied with a tumulus (the conſtant attendant on Roman roads and ſtations) and placed near the confluence of two rivers, the Boyd and the Avon; a poſition commonly choſen by the Romans."

" As Antonine is generally more correct than Richard, I have no ſcruple to adopt his name of * Trajectus, in preference to that of Abone; but the name

is

* " It being in fact the ſtation from whence the paſſage over the mountains (which ſeparated it from " Bath) began."

is of little conſequence, provided the poſition of the ſtation itſelf be aſcertained."

"From Trajectus the Roman road undoubtedly continues in the track of the preſent turnpike, as far as St. George's church, near Briſtol, and from thence to the great port of Sea Mills or Abone *. That this was no inconſiderable ſtation, the foundations, coins, and remains, daily found, plainly prove: that it was the great port of the Roman navy I have no doubt; it ſtands at the confluence of the river Trim with the Avon, and was a place peculiarly well ſituated for the magazine of their naval ſtores, as well as the ſhelter of their fleet on this ſide of England. The road leading to and from it is viſible; exploratory camps are placed on each ſide; and one on King's Weſton Hill correſponding not only with that on Lanſdown, but with one near the Croſs Hands, eaſily maintained the communication with the great ſtation of Caerwent. The diſtance of VIIII miles in the Itinerary of Antonine, between Abone and Trajectus, exactly agrees with the diſtance from Bitton to Sea Mills; and as it was the great ſtation on the Avon, it probably derived the name of Abone, from its poſition on that river."

"From this ſtation Venta Silurum is placed by Antonine at the diſtance of nine miles; whereas the direct diſtance from Sea Mills to Caerwent is not leſs than twelve: but as the ſum total prefixed to this Iter does not correſpond with the amount of the reſpective numbers, by a deficiency of five miles, it may be concluded either that ſome of the numerals were corrupted, or a poſt omitted by the inattention of tranſcribers; accordingly, in referring to Richard, we find † the ſtation of ad Sabrinam III, not mentioned by Antonine, a diſtance which exactly accords with that from Sea Mills to the Severn, and along the line of which traces of a Roman cauſeway are ſtill manifeſt. By adding theſe three miles, the diſtance from Sea Mills to Caerwent will be twelve, and from ad Sabrinam (or the place of embarkation on the Severn) nine, which, allowing about ſix and a half for the paſſage, is the diſtance from Caerwent."

"I preſume

* See the ſketch.

† In confirmation of their having ſome poſt or ſtation on the borders of the Severn, Mr. Barret, in his Hiſtory of Briſtol, p. 12. mentions, "that "under Kinſweſton Hill, in Lawrence Weſton, near "the river, was a common field, called Abone Town, as mentioned in the rental of Sir Ralph "Sadlier, 36 Hen. 8; where many Roman coins "have been diſcovered." This was probably a hamlet belonging to the great ſtation at Sea Mills, and attached to the poſt of Ad Sabrinam.

"I preſume therefore to offer the following corrections of Antonine and Richard:"

Iter 14 Antonini inverſum.		Iter 11 Ricardi.	
Ab Iſca Callevam uſq.	CIII	Ab Aquis, per Viam Juliam, Menapiam uſq. ſic.	
Aquæ Solis (Bath)			
Trajectus: (Bitton)	VI.	Ad Trajectum (Abonam)	VI.
Abone: (Sea Mills)	VIIII.	Ad Abonam (Trajectum)	VIIII.
Ad Sabrinam, (omitted)	III.	Ad Sabrinam	III.
		Unde Trajectu intras in Britanniam Secundam.	
Venta Silurum (Caerwent)	VIHI.	Venta Silurum	VIII.
Iſca Silurum (Caerleon) &c.	VHII.	Iſca Colonia	VHII.
	XXXVI.		XXXV.

The point of embarkation being thus ſettled, the next object is to trace the Julia Strata, from the place of diſembarkation on the oppoſite coaſt of Monmouthſhire, to Caerwent. From local obſervations, it appears, that in the whole tract between the mouth of the Wy and Caldecot Level, there could have been no ſecure landing place, excepting at the New Paſſage and at Caldecot Pill, or perhaps at Portſcwit, if we admit the conjecture, that it was once a port*. I am inclined therefore to adopt the opinion of my friend Mr. Leman in favour of Caldecot Pill. Notwithſtanding, however, all my reſearches and enquiries, I could not diſcover any veſtiges of a cauſeway between Caldecot Pill and Caerwent, till I paſſed the brook Nedern, in the vicinity of Caerwent †.

Between the brook and the eaſtern gate, I perceived veſtiges of an ancient paved cauſeway, which within the memory of ſome of the inhabitants was more perfect. I was likewiſe informed by the man employed in making the preſent road, that this cauſeway was the common way for horſe and foot paſſengers, and notwithſtanding the boggy nature of the adjacent ſoil, was remarkable for its firmneſs and dryneſs.

I have

* Portſcwit is called in the Triades, one of the three paſſages or ferries in the Iſle of Britain. From Mr. Owen.

† If I might venture to hazard an opinion on ſo difficult a ſubject, I ſhould conjecture that, from Caldecot Pill, the Julia Strata took the direction of what is now a broad way to a place called the Tump, a natural elevation of rock, which may have ſerved as a tumulus. Its courſe is loſt in the village of Caldecot, but re-appears a little beyond the church, oppoſite to the ruins of the caſtle, which might have been the ſite of a Roman poſt, and is the bye road leading to Caerwent; it runs over the natural rock, in a ſtraight line for above a mile, when it is interrupted by ſeveral lime kilns; from which place to the brook Nedern no farther traces of it could be diſcovered. On the other ſide of that brook is the cauſeway mentioned in the text. My friend Mr. Evans, at my requeſt, explored the country between Caerwent and the Severn, corroborated Mr. Leman's opinion, that Caldecot Pill was the landing place of the Romans, and confirmed my conjecture that the Julia Strata ran from thence through the preſent village of Caldecot to the weſt of the caſtle, in the direction of the bye road which I have deſcribed; he particularly noticed that the track was worn by conſtant uſe ſeveral feet below the ſurface.

I have obſerved *, that the only part of the Julia Strata viſible in Monmouthſhire, which has been diſtinctly aſcertained, runs through Caerwent, and from thence over the brook Nedern, by Penhow, towards Caerleon. Several antiquaries, and particularly Horſley, who travelled over it towards the beginning of this century, deſcribe it as large and remarkable. Since the formation of the turnpike, its appearance is conſiderably changed; but the veſtiges are ſtill occaſionally manifeſt, as far as Cat's aſh, a public houſe on the left of the high road, two miles from Caerleon. Near this place the turnpike quits it at the bottom of a ſteep aſcent, and in a mile again joins it; but the Roman way ſoon branches off in a ſtraight direction acroſs the fields, and in the line of the old Chepſtow Hill road, to the village of Caerleon, or Ultra Pontem, from whence a branch led towards Uſk.

The courſe of the Julia Strata, weſt from Caerleon, through the counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan, is contained in the twelfth Iter of Antonine, and the two next ſtations beyond Caerleon are Bovium † XXVII, and Nidus XV ‡.

Richard places Bovium at the diſtance of XXVIII. M. P.; but mentions an intermediate poſt, Tibia Amnis VIII.; which is omitted by Antonine. Should this numeral VIII not be corrupted, the ſite of Tibia Amnis muſt be found in Monmouthſhire. The name implies that it was ſeated on a river; but I could not diſcover the traces of any ſtation anſwering to that diſtance and poſition between Caerleon and the frontiers; and the beſt antiquaries are of opinion, that the numerals are corrupted, and that Tibia Amnis was a poſt on the banks of the Taaf.

From Caerleon to Tibia Amnis the Julia Strata proceeded through or near Newport;

* See p. 29.

† Bovium or Bomium has been placed by different antiquaries at Cowbridge, Boverton, Lantwit Major, and Ewenny; Nidus is generally allowed to be Neath. Horſley erroneouſly places Nidus and Bomium, which he tranſpoſes, near Portbury and near Axbridge in Somerſetſhire, which is contrary to the direction of the Iter. As he had never ſeen the Iters of Richard (which poſitively fix the ſituation of the ſtations mentioned in the latter part of the twelfth Iter of Antonine) he had not the leaſt ſuſpicion that the twelfth Iter of Antonine, through the blunders of tranſcribers, was compoſed of two ſeparate Iters joined together. Knowing therefore the poſition of the ſtations mentioned in the beginning of the Iter, he concluded that the ſtations at the end were a continuation of the ſame journey; whereas one of the Iters runs through the weſt of England, and the other through the ſouthern part of Wales. Horſley's Commentary, p. 457. Reynolds's Iter Britanniarum, p. 338.

‡ See Sureta's Itinerarium Antonini, p. 110. In Horſley's copy, Nidus is put firſt and Bovium ſecond, and the diſtances are XV. and XV. But the coincidence of the diſtance from Iſca to Bovium XXVII. with XXVIII. in Richard, and the order of the ſtations, prove Sureta's reading to be right.

Newport; for Alexander Necham, who died in 1217, abbot of Cirenceſter, ſpeaking of Newport, obſerved, that it paſſed not far from the mouth of the Uſk:

" Intrat et auget aquas Sabrinæ fluminis Oſca
" Præceps; teſtis erit Julia Strata mihi."

No veſtiges, however, of a Roman cauſeway are viſible between Caerleon and Newport; but, according to the opinion of Mr. Evans, whoſe local knowledge of the country is extremely exact, the Roman road ran on the right bank of the Uſk; and I traced its courſe more than once in his company. From the weſt gate of Caerleon, it went parallel to the walls; then turned at right angles to the weſt, and in a few hundred yards turning again at right angles, continued ſouthward for a ſhort diſtance, in which line two ſepulchral ſtones bearing Roman inſcriptions have been found. It then reſumed a weſterly direction, proceeded under the encampment of the Lodge, croſſed a brook near ſome old walls; ſuppoſed to have been part of the walls belonging to the ancient ſuburbs of Caerleon, but which are probably the remains of the gate leading into Lantarnam Park; it here ſuddenly took a ſoutherly courſe, continued in a ſtraight line for about a mile, paſſing near two ſpots where ſepulchral inſcriptions * were diſcovered, and then bent round the Pill.

Here the preſent road follows unneceſſarily a circuitous courſe, firſt north and then ſouth, over a ſteep ridge of hills; but the Roman way took a nearer direction ſouth-weſterly by Tamplin's houſe, leaving Malpas church on the right, and Crynda Houſe on the left, croſſed the preſent high road, paſſed the Scelti near the ſtone bridge, and continued along the fields, where the track is loſt among the works of the canal; its direction, however, was evident from an urn and a free ſtone ſarcophagus diſcovered in digging the canal.

It paſſed a little to the weſt of Newport, and led up the hill to the ſite of St. Woolos church, near the remains of ſeveral encampments, and a tumulus now deſtroyed, which Harris conſiders as an arx ſpeculatoria †.

The courſe from hence towards the Taaf is doubtful, as the preſent road divides

* One of theſe ſepulchral ſtones, which is now in Mr. Butler's cellar at Caerleon, is inſcribed D. M. VIBIO PROCVLO. the other DCATEAI. AMABIL/; the inſcription on the third is ſcarcely legible except the words CHOR VI * HAST 7, PRI*. Communicated by Mr. Evans.

† Archæologia, vol. 2. p. 7.

divides into two branches, which unite at St Melon's; the upper leads by Baſſaleg, the lower by Tredegar and Caſtleton, and the chain of encampments which I have deſcribed in the eighth chapter, are equally calculated to defend both.

From the union of the two roads, near the church of St. Melon's, and about a quarter of a mile from the encampment of Pen y Pil, the Roman way probably followed the courſe of the preſent turnpike, and after croſſing the Rumney, continued towards the Taaf.

There are evident traces of a Roman cauſeway eaſt from Caerwent to the village of Crick, diſcerned by Horſley and other antiquaries *, and which has been uſually ſuppoſed to form part of the Julia Strata leading from the Severn to Caerwent. Mr. Leman, however, is of opinion that this cauſeway was a continuation of the Akeman ſtreet, between Corinium or Cirenceſter and Caerleon †.

I ſhall now return to thoſe branches of the Julia Strata which paſſed through the other parts of Monmouthſhire, and are ſpecified in the twelfth and fourteenth Iters of Antonine, and the eleventh and thirteenth of Richard.

Antonine Iter. XII.		Richard Iter. XIII.		Engliſh Names.
Ab Iſca.		Ab Iſca Uriconium uſque ſic.		
	M. P.		M. P.	
Burrio	VIIII.	Bultro	VIII.	Uſk.
Gobannio	XII.	Gobannio	XII.	Abergavenny.
Magnis	XXII.	Magna	XXIII.	Kencheſter.
Bravinio	XXIIII.	Branogenio	XXIII.	Lentwardine, or Brandon Camp.
Urioconio	XXVII.	Urioconio	XXVII.	Wroxeter.
	XCIIII.		XCIII.	
Iter XIII.		Iter XIV.		
Ab Iſca.		Ab Iſca, per Glebon, Lindum uſque ſic.		
Burrio	VIIII.	Ballio	VIII.	Uſk.
Bleſtio	XI.	Bleſtio	XII.	Monmouth.
Ariconio	XI.	Sariconio	XI.	Roſe or Berry Hill near Roſs.
Clevo	XV.	Glebon Colonia, &c.	XV.	Gloceſter.
	XLVI.		XLVI.	

A branch led from Caerleon to Burrium or Uſk, from which place it divided into

* Horſley, p. 469.

† This road, in its way from Cirenceſter to the Severn, Mr. Leman traced by Trewſbury, Hocbury, and Cherington, in Gloceſterſhire, to the end of the Wolds.

into two ways, one proceeding to Gobannium or Abergavenny, and another to Bleſtium or Monmouth. The diſtance from Iſca to Burrium is VIIII in Antonine, and VIII in Richard. There are two ways from Caerleon to Uſk; the upper, which is the turnpike, paſſes a ſteep hill, and croſſes the river over a ſtone bridge to Uſk; it is not more than ſeven miles and a quarter. The lower, which is little uſed for carriages, proceeds along the left bank of the Uſk, in a more circuitous track, but almoſt perfectly level, at the foot of Kemeys and Bertholly hills and the Pencamawr, under a chain of encampments *, and above the marſhy plain, which is ſubject to perpetual inundations; the diſtance is about eight miles, and the road bends to accommodate itſelf to the numerous ſinuoſities of the river, as far as the lane leading to Tredonnoc bridge. From thence it continues as ſtraight as an arrow to Lantriſaint; where the preſent road makes a circuit over the hill into the highway from Uſk to the New Paſſage, and deſcends to Lanllowel, leaving the church on the left. But the old road, which I conceive to be the ſite of the Roman way, continued ſtraight on the right ſide of the church to Lanllowell, where it formed an obtuſe angle, and proceeded with the line of the preſent road to Uſk. The length being greater than that of the upper road, accords better with the diſtances in the Itineraries.

The courſe of the Roman road from Uſk to Bleſtium, comes next under conſideration. The diſtance is XI miles according to Antonine, and XII according to Richard. Two roads lead from Uſk to Monmouth; one by Raglan, which is twelve miles and a half, and the other by Pen y Clawdd is not more than eleven. The laſt I conſider to have been the direction of the Roman road, at

Wolds. It traverſes the turnpike from Tetbury to Hampton, paſſes a houſe called the Star and Garter, to Chevenage Green, from whence it is an obſcure horſeway through the incloſures to the Bath turnpike, (which it croſſes about a quarter of a mile before the ſeparation of the Froceſter and Rodborough roads) then deſcends into Laſborough Vale with a kind of ſweep, and winds up the oppoſite hill to regain its courſe, having as uſual tumuli for a direction on each ſide. It paſſes the incloſures by the edge of the valley in which Bagſpath village is placed, tending towards a vaſt tumulus on the brow of the hill, cloſe to the turnpike leading to Durſley and Rodborough, and near Symond's hall, a farm houſe belonging to lord Berkeley, on the edge of the Wolds. The firſt object on reaching this tumulus is Lydney, which was evidently a Roman ſtation, on the oppoſite ſide of the Severn in the foreſt of Dean. Here Mr. Leman purſued it no farther, and could not decide whether it proceeded to Oldbury or Auſt; but was of opinion that it communicated with the Via Julia at Caerwent. See the ſketch of this road on the plate of the Roman roads. Mr. Lyſons in his learned and elegant work on the antiquities of Woodcheſter traces this road, which he calls the Ikenild Street, by Trewſbury, Cherrington, Kingſcote, and Croomhall to Auſt.

* Kemeys Folly, Coed y Caerau, and Caerlicyn. See Appendix, N°. 1.

at leaſt as far as Pen y Clawdd. It runs along the Vale of Uſk, leaving Landenny church on the left, at the diſtance of about half a mile, aſcends Lanerth hill, and proceeds in a ſtraight line to Pen y Clawdd, paſſing by the church, which is placed on a ſummit; the meaning of this name, which ſignifies the head of the dike, implies that a great cauſeway reached this point of the eminence. From this place, after deſcending a quarter of a mile, the preſent road loſes its ſtraight direction, and purſuing a winding courſe, falls into the upper road from Uſk by Raglan to Monmouth. The ſudden change from a ſtraight to a waving line, inſtantly convinced me that it had loſt the track of the Roman cauſeway, which probably ran by a ſhorter and more level courſe to Mitchel Troy, and near the preſent ſite of Troy houſe to Monmouth.

Both Antonine and Richard agree in placing Ariconium or Saricōnium, the next ſtation, at the diſtance of XI miles from Bleſtium. Ariconium is now ſuppoſed, by the beſt antiquaries, to be Roſe or Berry hill in the pariſh of Bollitree, which is ten or eleven miles from Monmouth. The road probably ran along the ſite of the preſent turnpike to the ford of the Wy near Goodrich, leaving an entrenchment and tumulus at a little diſtance to the left, oppoſite Dixon church, and paſſing at the foot of the little Doward, on the ſummit of which is an encampment, ſuppoſed by ſome antiquaries to be Roman. The name of Whitchurch STREET, by which it is diſtinguiſhed, ſeems to indicate the exiſtence of a Roman way; yet in the whole courſe of the road to Goodrich, I could not diſcover any veſtiges of an ancient cauſeway, either from my own obſervations, or from repeated enquiries among the natives.

During various excurſions in the vicinity of Monmouth, the only road bearing poſitive marks of Roman origin, is that which leads from the left bank of the Wy up the Kymin, paſſes by Stanton in Gloceſterſhire, and was part of the old way from Monmouth to Gloceſter. At this place are many indications of a Roman ſettlement; the name of Stanton * proves the exiſtence of a Roman cauſeway; veſtiges of conſiderable entrenchments appear in the vicinity of the church, and quantities of Roman cinders † are ſcattered about the fields.

* Stanton ſignifies Stane town, or the Town on the Stone Street. † See p. 86.

other ways, as well military as vicinal, which communicated directly with ſome of the greater ſtations, or formed a regular connection with the diſtricts occupied by the Romans in the mountains, for the purpoſe of opening mines, of which traces are frequent in many parts of the county.

In the courſe of my Tour I obſerved veſtiges of ſeveral, which appeared to be of Roman origin, particularly in the neighbourhood of Lanvihangel Crickornell, where the names of Upper and Lower Stanton ſeem to indicate the ſite of a Roman road, and where the remains of numerous entrenchments, which might have ſerved as exploratory camps, are ſtill manifeſt *.

A road muſt have led from Abergavenny through the Vale of the Uſk north-weſt to the Gaer, ſituated about two miles north-weſt of Brecon, "on a gentle eminence, at the conflux of the rivers Eſkir and Uſke." Mr. Wyndham † traced part of the walls, which he deſcribes as exactly ſimilar to thoſe of Caerleon, and Mr. Leman found ſeveral bricks bearing the inſcription of LEG II AVG.

There ſeems alſo to have been a Roman road from Abergavenny, communicating with the ſtations in Glamorganſhire. Bad weather and want of time prevented me from exploring the whole of this track; but in an excurſion to the weſtern boundaries of Monmouthſhire, I travelled over that part of it which ſtretches from Penllwyn, north to Bydwellty, and the Sorwy furnace. It forms a ſtraight line, from forty to fifty feet in breadth between the hedges, which is an uncommon circumſtance in this county, where the roads are uſually extremely narrow; in many places I obſerved veſtiges of a cauſeway, paved with large flag ſtones; in ſome parts there was little more than a pathway in the midſt of this broad road; but in others, the whole cauſeway remained entire and ſwelling, though furrowed with the tracks of horſes. Theſe appearances are peculiarly ſtriking about half a mile beyond Bydwellty church, near which are remains of a ſtrong entrenchment. I traced it only four miles; but I am informed by gentlemen who have much frequented theſe mountains

* See the Plate.

† See Wyndham's Tour: Strange and Harris ſuppoſe the Gaer to be the Magna of Antoninus. The general line of this road from Gobannium to the Gaer, and from thence to Nidus or Neath, is marked in the ſketches of the Roman roads annexed to this chapter.

mountains for growſe ſhooting, that it continues north ſome miles farther, and then turns to the eaſt and north-eaſt over the moors, in a direction to Abergavenny. This road is called by the natives *ſarn hir*, or the long paved cauſeway, a name which ſufficiently beſpeaks it to be Roman, Sarn in Welſh having the ſame ſignification as Stane or Street in Engliſh *.

* See p. 24.

SECTION 3.

Ancient Encampments.—Caſtles.—Churches.

REMAINS of numerous encampments are ſtill manifeſt in various parts of Monmouthſhire, which have been called Britiſh, Roman, Saxon or Daniſh, according to the ſyſtems adopted by different authors.

Harris, who had the merit of diſcovering ſeveral of theſe camps, aſcribes to them all a Roman origin, merely becauſe a few Roman coins or portable antiquities have been found either in their ſites or in their vicinities *. But this circumſtance cannot be conſidered as poſitive evidence of a Roman camp; for long after the departure of the Romans their money was current among the Britons, and the Saxons and Danes conveyed the plunder of the places they over-ran to their own towns and camps.

Perhaps a ſquare or parallelogramical form, independent of Roman roads and antiquities, is the only *indubitable* mark of Roman origin. It does not however appear, that the Romans, in all times, in all countries, and in all places, invariably formed their camps on the ſame plan; for there are ſeveral in England of circular, elliptical, and even irregular figures, which are unanimouſly allowed to be Roman; and we learn from Vegetius, that although a camp was moſt complete when its breadth was two thirds of its length, yet the form alone did not conſtitute its goodneſs, but it might be ſquare, triangular, or ſemicircular, according to the nature of the ground †.

Should we conſider the rectangular form alone, as indicative of a Roman camp, we

* Archæologia, vol. 2.

† See Vegetius, lib. 1. cap. 23.

we could not aſcribe more than three or four of thoſe of which I have given plans to the Romans; whereas during a reſidence of three hundred years in this country they muſt have occupied many ſummer camps, as well as ſmall poſts, for the protection of their convoys, and the ſecurity of their cattle. We muſt therefore either ſuppoſe, that many of theſe were Britiſh, occupied by the Romans, or Roman, occupied and altered by the Britons, Saxons, and Danes. Several, however, bear evident traces of a Saxon and Daniſh origin, in the depth of the ditches and height of the vallums, and were formed during their predatory incurſions into theſe parts. But as the Saxons and Danes never retained permanent poſſeſſion of the country, we have reaſon to conclude, that the greater part of the encampments were Britiſh. As I cannot preſume to diſcriminate the ſpecific characteriſtics of each, I have given plans of the principal encampments from actual ſurveys, that thoſe who are verſed in this ſpecies of knowledge, may judge of their origin.

Among the principal objects of hiſtorical importance, the caſtles arreſt the attention of the curious traveller. From the want of authentic documents, and the doubtful characters of our ancient architecture, it is not eaſy to aſcertain the preciſe æra of their conſtruction, and to diſtinguiſh their different proprietors. Stone caſtles were undoubtedly uſed by the Romans, and occupied on their departure by the Britons, who had been trained under their military diſcipline. The Saxons, in their gradual conqueſt of England, obtained poſſeſſion of theſe ſtrong holds, and conſtructed others in various parts of the country. The roundneſs of the arches, and other leading characters of Roman architecture, were ſtill preſerved; but the ſimplicity and elegance were loſt in a more ponderous ſtyle; their buildings were loaded with rude and fantaſtic ornaments, and as the arts of war changed, new modes of defence were introduced, particularly during the conteſt between the Saxons and Danes. It is, however, acknowledged that theſe caſtles were few in number, and much dilapidated at the time of the conqueſt; a circumſtance which principally contributed to the ſucceſs of the Norman invaſion.

From the neceſſity of retaining the natives in ſubjection, the conquerors repaired

paired the old fortreſſes, and conſtructed new caſtles in different parts of the kingdom. Theſe ſtrong holds became ſo numerous, that in little more than a century their number exceeded eleven hundred.

On their firſt arrival the Normans employed the ſame mode of architecture as the Saxons, but with larger dimenſions, and perhaps with a greater number of capricious ornaments; and hence ariſes the great difficulty of diſtinguiſhing a Saxon from a Norman building erected at this period.

Towards the commencement of the twelfth century, a criterion of diſtinction was derived from the introduction of the pointed, or as it is uſually called, the gothic arch, which probably owed its origin to the interſection of the ſemicircular arches in the ornamental parts of the Saxon or Norman buildings. It was at firſt ſparingly employed; but was gradually intermixed with the Saxon or Norman ſtyle, until it came into general uſe, before the latter end of the ſame century.

At its firſt appearance, which ſeems to be earlier than is generally ſuppoſed, the gothic architecture was plain and unadorned, but was gradually diſtinguiſhed by ſlender and cluſtered columns, lightneſs of the walls, numerous buttreſſes, and by a profuſion of ornaments. In the age of Henry the ſixth it reached its higheſt perfection, as may be ſeen in the beautiful ſpecimen of King's College in the univerſity of Cambridge. Soon after that period, the arch became wider and leſs pointed, and gradually tended to a circular form. Towards the middle of the ſixteenth century, a whimſical intermixture of Roman, Saxon, Norman, and gothic architecture was introduced, and retained until the adoption of the Palladian ſtyle.

Moſt of theſe ſtyles are obſervable in the caſtles, churches, and other ancient buildings of Monmouthſhire. Few Roman remains exiſt, and the Saxons being never poſſeſſors of the whole county, could leave but few ſpecimens of their architecture, and thoſe of a period when it is difficult to diſtinguiſh it from that of the early Normans; but the gothic is moſt prevalent. From theſe circumſtances, as well as from hiſtorical evidence, it is probable that the greater part of the caſtles in this county owed their origin to the Normans, and

were built or repaired after the introduction of gothic architecture: none, perhaps, except Scenfreth, are wholly Saxon or early Norman; a few exhibit an intermixture of the Norman and gothic; and the reſt are entirely gothic.

The churches are ſingularly pictureſque, from their ſituation, form and appearance; they ſtand in the midſt of the fields, and on the banks of the rivers; re often embowered in trees, and generally at a conſiderable diſtance from any habitation.

A whimſical and not unpleaſing effect is ſometimes produced by the coat of plaiſter or lime with which they are covered. The body of the church is uſually whitened, occaſionally alſo the tower; in ſome inſtances the tower is uncoloured, and in others the battlements only are white-waſhed. This intermixture of colours is ingeniouſly accounted for by Eſſex in his remarks on ancient brick and ſtone buildings in England: "The Normans frequently raiſed large buildings with pebbles only, and ſometimes with pebbles intermixt with rag-ſtones. As this rough manner of building with rag-ſtones and other irregular materials, required a coat of plaiſtering to make them fair without and neat within, we find that thoſe ſmall churches and other buildings which were built in this manner, were always plaiſtered in the inſide, and frequently on the outſide, with a compoſition of lime and ſand, the remains of which may be traced in many of the Saxon and Norman churches, and in ſome more modern *."

Theſe churches exhibit different ſtyles of architecture; many of them, particularly in the mountainous diſtricts, are very ancient, and it is probable that a few were conſtructed by the Britons, ſome by the Saxons, and ſeveral at an early period of the Norman monarchy, as is evident from the rounded arches and mouldings peculiar to thoſe ſtyles; but the far greater part were built ſince the introduction of gothic architecture.

The firſt are generally of a ſimple form, of ſmall dimenſions, ſhaped like a barn, without any diſtinction in the breadth or height between the nave and the chancel, and without a belfry.

The

* Eſſex's remarks on the antiquity and different modes of brick and ſtone buildings in England. Archæologia, vol. 4. p. 101.

The ſecond ſpecies is of ſomewhat later date: the chancel is narrower and leſs lofty than the church; a ſmall belfry is alſo placed over the roof at the weſtern extremity, with one or two apertures * for bells, the ropes of which deſcend into the church.

The third ſpecies conſiſts of a nave, a chancel, and a tower or belfry, which is ſometimes placed at the weſtern extremity, ſometimes in the middle, and ſometimes at the ſide. The tower was at firſt rude and maſſive, afterwards increaſed in height and lightneſs, was ornamented with battlements, and in later times with pinnacles. A few, particularly thoſe in the eaſtern parts of the county, are provided with ſteeples, and are ſcarcely earlier than the 13th century.

Many of the churches have undergone little change ſince the æra of the Reformation, and exhibit traces of the Roman Catholic worſhip, particularly in the niches for ſaints, the receptacles for holy water, and ſometimes in the veſtiges of the confeſſional chair.

Many alſo contain remains of the rood loft †; almoſt all of the doorway and ſide ſtaircaſe, which led to it. In ſeveral churches I obſerved the tranſverſe beams from which the croſs was ſuſpended, and in that of Bettws Newydd almoſt the whole loft remains ‡. In many parts of this county, the poor of every perſuaſion ſtill retain the cuſtom of begging bread for *the ſouls of the departed* on all Souls' day; the bread then given, is called *Bara ran*, or Dole bread.

The fonts are in general remarkable for ſize and rudeneſs of workmanſhip; circumſtances which beſpeak antiquity, and prove that they were formed when baptiſm was performed by immerſion §, and not by ſprinkling.

A remarkable cuſtom of high antiquity, which greatly diſfigures the churches,

is

* See the views of Malpas and Lanſanfraed churches. In the courſe of this work, engravings are given of the different churches from the Saxon or early Norman to the later gothic.

† "The holy rood, or rood loft, derives its name from the Saxon word rode, or rood, which ſignifies a croſs. It was an image of Chriſt upon the croſs, made generally of wood, and placed in a loft or gallery, over the paſſage leading from the nave into the chancel. The nave without repreſented the church militant, and the chancel the church triumphant, and thoſe who paſſed from the one to the other, muſt go under the croſs and ſuffer affliction." Hiſtory of Churches in England, p. 199.

‡ Page 163.

§ Immerſion was the common form of adminiſtering baptiſm in the thirteenth century.

is prevalent in theſe parts. The inſide of the church is often the common place of ſepulture. When a corpſe is buried, the pavement is taken up, a grave raiſed, in the ſame manner as in common church yards, and this heap of earth ſtrewed with flowers and ever-greens*. As this cuſtom is annually repeated, and conſidered as a teſtimony of remembrance, the ſtones are ſeldom replaced, the faded plants rot on the ſurface of the grave, the floor is damp and dirty, and theſe tributes of affection, though pleaſing objects in the church yards, become offenſive and diſguſting.

* To the cuſtom of ſcattering flowers over the graves of deceaſed friends, David ap Gwillym beautifully alludes in one of his odes:

"O whilſt thy ſeaſon of flowers, and thy tender ſprays thick of leaves remain; I will pluck the roſes from the brakes; the flowerets of the meads, and gems of the woods; the vivid trefoils, beauties of the ground, and the gaily ſmiling bloom of the verdant herbs, to be offered to the memory of a chief of faireſt fame: Humbly will I lay them on the grave of Ivor!" Appendix, p. 420.

See alſo an intereſting tale, on the graves of Glamorganſhire, which relates to this cuſtom, in the Eſſay on Funeral Rites; in the Female Mentor, Converſation 42.

A

TOUR

IN

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

CHAPTER I.

Paſſage of the Severn.—Charſton Rock.—Black Rock and Houſe.—St. Pierre.—Ancient Tomb.—Pedigree of the Lewis Family.

I CROSSED into Monmouthſhire by the new paſſage. The breadth of the Severn from ſhore to ſhore, at high water, is three miles and a quarter, from the inn on one ſide to that on the other three and a half. The ſhores of Gloceſterſhire are quite flat at the place of embarkation; higher up, near the old paſſage, the cliffs are rocky and ſteep.

The ſhore of Monmouthſhire riſes gradually from the edge of the water into gentle acclivities, richly wooded, and interſperſed with fields of corn and paſture; above thoſe acclivities extend ridges of hills, which commence with Wind Cliff and the wooded eminences of Piercefield, and join the two grey hills above Lanvair. Beyond them to the weſt, towers the Pencamawr, and the eye catches a diſtant view of Twyn Barlwm, and the Machen Hill, terminating in the eminences beyond Newport, in the County of Glamorgan.

We paſſed near a rocky iſlet, ſcarcely half a mile from the ſhore of Monmouthſhire, which is well known by the appellation of Charſton Rock; at low water it is almoſt half a mile in circumference, and at high tide is ſometimes wholly covered, except a pyramid, which has been recently erected. The ſtone is highly eſteemed for its durability, and was lately employed by the architect of Newport bridge for the lower part of the piers. This iſlet is often miſtaken by authors for the Black Rock, which is the landing place of the new paſſage.

The diſcovery of Roman coins on this inſulated rock, which, if we may judge from its preſent ſize and ſituation, could never have been inhabited, has puzzled the beſt informed antiquaries, and has led ſome to conjecture, that it was once joined to the continent, or is the remains of a larger iſland. I diſembarked at the Black Rock, under a low but precipitous cliff of red ſtone, which is ſtriking to a traveller who has juſt quitted the ſandy level of the Gloceſterſhire ſhore, and aſcended to the inn, which is built on the ſummit of the cliff overhanging the Severn: from this place I made ſeveral excurſions in the vicinity.

This ferry over the new paſſage, which is certainly not leſs ancient than that over the old paſſage, has from time immemorial belonged to the reſpectable family of Lewis of St. Pierre. An intereſting incident in the life of Charles the firſt, occaſioned its ſuppreſſion by Oliver Cromwell. The king being purſued by a ſtrong party of the enemy, rode through Shire Newton, and croſſed the Severn to Chiſell Pill, on the Gloceſterſhire ſide: the boat had ſcarcely returned, before a corps of about ſixty republicans followed him to the Black Rock, and inſtantly compelled the boatmen, with drawn ſwords, to ferry them acroſs. The boatmen, who were royaliſts, left them on a reef, called the Engliſh Stones, which is ſeparated from the Gloceſterſhire ſhore by a lake fordable at low water; but as the tide, which had juſt turned, flowed in with great rapidity, they were all drowned in attempting to croſs. Cromwell, informed of this event, aboliſhed the ferry; and it was not renewed till 1718. The renewal occaſioned a law ſuit between the family of St. Pierre and the duke of Beaufort's guardians: in the courſe of the ſuit, ſeveral witneſſes were called, and depoſitions taken, before a commiſſion of the high court of Chancery, held at the Elephant coffee houſe, in Briſtol, which ſtated the undoubted right of Mr. Lewis, and incidentally mentioned the intereſting anecdote relating to the eſcape of Charles the firſt*.

A pleaſant

* Charles Lewis, Eſq. obligingly communicated to me a copy of theſe depoſitions, from which I ſhall inſert that of Giles Gilbert, of Shire Newton, which is the moſt circumſtantial: "And this deponent particularly remembers, that in the reign of king Charles the firſt, it was reported, that his Majeſty croſſed the ſaid paſſage from the ſaid Black Rock to Chiſhull Pill; and this deponent believes the ſame, for that this deponent ſaw him ride through Shire Newton, near the ſaid paſſage, in order to croſs over the ſame, and about one hour after his majeſty paſſed by, he was purſued by his enemies, or Oliver's ſoldiers, whom this deponent ſaw going haſtily near Portſcuet, who as this deponent heard, upon their coming up to the ſaid Black Rock paſſage, and there finding the king to have juſt paſſed over, drew their ſwords upon ſome boatmen, belonging to the ſaid paſſage, that were there, and forced them on board one of the paſſage boats,

R. H. del.t W. B. direx.t

St. PIERRE.

Published March 1. 1800. by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

R. H. del.t W. B. direx.t

MOINS' COURT GATEWAY.

Published March 1. 1800. by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

A pleaſant walk acroſs the fields, by the ſide of the Severn, leads to St. Pierre, the reſidence of the ancient family of Lewis. The houſe ſtands at a ſmall diſtance from the Severn, near half a mile from the high road leading to Chepſtow. It is an ancient ſtructure, much altered, and moderniſed with ſaſh windows; one, however, ſtill remains, which proves it to have been conſtructed as early as the fourteenth century. The gateway is ſtill more ancient, and in feudal times was part of the old caſtellated manſion; it is a gothic portal, flanked by two pentagon embattled turrets, and has a very pictureſque appearance; its form may be ſeen in the annexed engraving.

The preſent proprietor, Mr. Lewis, was ſo obliging as to accompany me through the apartments; the frize of the dining-room is ornamented with coats of arms, carved and emblazoned, among which I noticed the lion argent on a ſable field, the arms of the preſent family, which they bear from their anceſtor Cadivor the Great, who died in 1084, and was buried in the priory of Caermarthen. I obſerved likewiſe a griffin ſegreant ſable, the arms of the Morgan family, who are derived from the ſame ſtock. The leaden ſpouts of the houſe are alſo marked with the lion, griffin, and three bulls heads; the three bearings of Cadivor the Great, and his immediate deſcendants.

Among a few pictures, one portrait attracted my attention: it repreſents a man habited in a coat of mail, without a helmet, his hair flowing, and holding a piſtol in his right hand; a page is faſtening on his ſaſh, as if he was preparing for combat: the picture is well painted, and the countenance in particular is expreſſive and animated. According to the tradition of the family, it is the portait of Thomas Lewis, of St. Pierre, who lived in the time of Charles the firſt, and for his attachment to the royal cauſe, was confined twenty years in the caſtle of Chepſtow; but this tradition does not accord with hiſtorical fact. It does not appear that Thomas Lewis was ever confined in the caſtle

and the ſaid boatmen carried them over, and landed or put them on ſhore on the rocks, called the Engliſh Stones, on the Glouceſterſhire ſide of the ſaid paſſage, near Cheſhull Pill, and left them there, when the tide coming on them, they were all loſt or drowned, as this deponent verily believes, and was credibly informed, the very next day, by the boatmen who carried them over; when this deponent, upon the report of the accident, went down to the ſaid paſſage to enquire into the truth thereof; and this deponent ſaith, that he hath heard, and been informed, and believes, that the ſaid paſſage was afterwards put down by Oliver Cromwell on that occaſion."

caſtle of Chepſtow, or that he could have been impriſoned twenty years, as it was not ſo long in the poſſeſſion of Cromwell.

I am inclined to believe, that it is the portrait of the celebrated regicide Harry Marten; he was confined *exactly twenty years* in the caſtle of Chepſtow, and, with the permiſſion of his guard, was occaſionally received at the hoſpitable manſion of Mr. Thomas Lewis, who though a ſtaunch loyaliſt, did not ſuffer his political principles to weigh againſt his benevolence. Marten, as a proof of gratitude, preſented his portrait to his protector; it has ſince remained in the poſſeſſion of the family, but being neglected and forgotten, was caſually found by one of the deſcendants: unwilling to believe that his loyal predeceſſor had preſerved the portrait of a regicide, and miſunderſtanding the tradition relating to the picture, he miſtook Harry Marten for his anceſtor. I am able to confirm this conjecture. An old butler, ſince dead, and a houſekeeper, both of whom lived for a conſiderable time in the family, agreed in averring, that it was the portrait of Harry Marten: Mrs. Williams, alſo, who died laſt year, at a very advanced age, in Chepſtow caſtle, frequently mentioned that his portrait was at St. Pierre. As her mother reſided in the caſtle during the impriſonment of Harry Marten, and as Mrs. Williams had converſed with two of his ſervants, her evidence, in addition to the aſſertions of the butler and houſekeeper, muſt be deciſive; I have, therefore, given an engraving of the head.

The family derives its appellation from this place of their reſidence, which is ſo called from the church dedicated to St. Peter; in Latin it is denominated *Sancti Petri Eccleſia*, and probably took its French appellation from the Norman family, who were ſeated here ſoon after the Conqueſt, and built the church *.

The church, which is contiguous to the houſe, is an ancient building of ſmall dimenſions, barn-like ſhape, and without any diſtinction between the nave and the chancel. Two curious ſepulchral ſtones, which were diſcovered in 1764, in laying the foundation of a building adjoining to the houſe, are depoſited in the church porch.

Of

* It is written differently in different ages; I traced on the monumental inſcriptions, the appellations of Sene Peare, San Pere, St. Peers, St. Peare; but it is now denominated St. Pierre.

Of theſe ſepulchral ſtones, which have attracted the attention of the antiquary, fac ſimiles have been given by Mr. Strange, in the fifth volume of the Archæologia, and by Mr. Pegge, in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1765 *. On one of the ſtones is carved a plain croſs and a ſword, with an inſcription round the verge in old French rhyme.

Ici git le cors v. de ſene pere,
Preez pur li en bone manere;
Qe Jeſu pur ſa paſiun,
De phecez li done pardun.
Amen, R. P.

Here lies the body of Urien St. Pierre; pray devoutly for his ſoul; that Jeſus, for his paſſion's ſake, would give him pardon for his ſins.

The other ſtone being exactly of the ſame ſize and ſhape, is ſuppoſed to have been a partner to the former; but Mr. Pegge imagines that it was the ſtone which covered the grave of his wife Margaret: it contains no inſcription, but bears the figure of a hand holding a croſs; the ſtem of which is ornamented with rude figures, repreſenting three falcons, a dragon, and a lion. Above the croſs is a vacant ſpace for a coat of arms, with ten pellets or bezants.

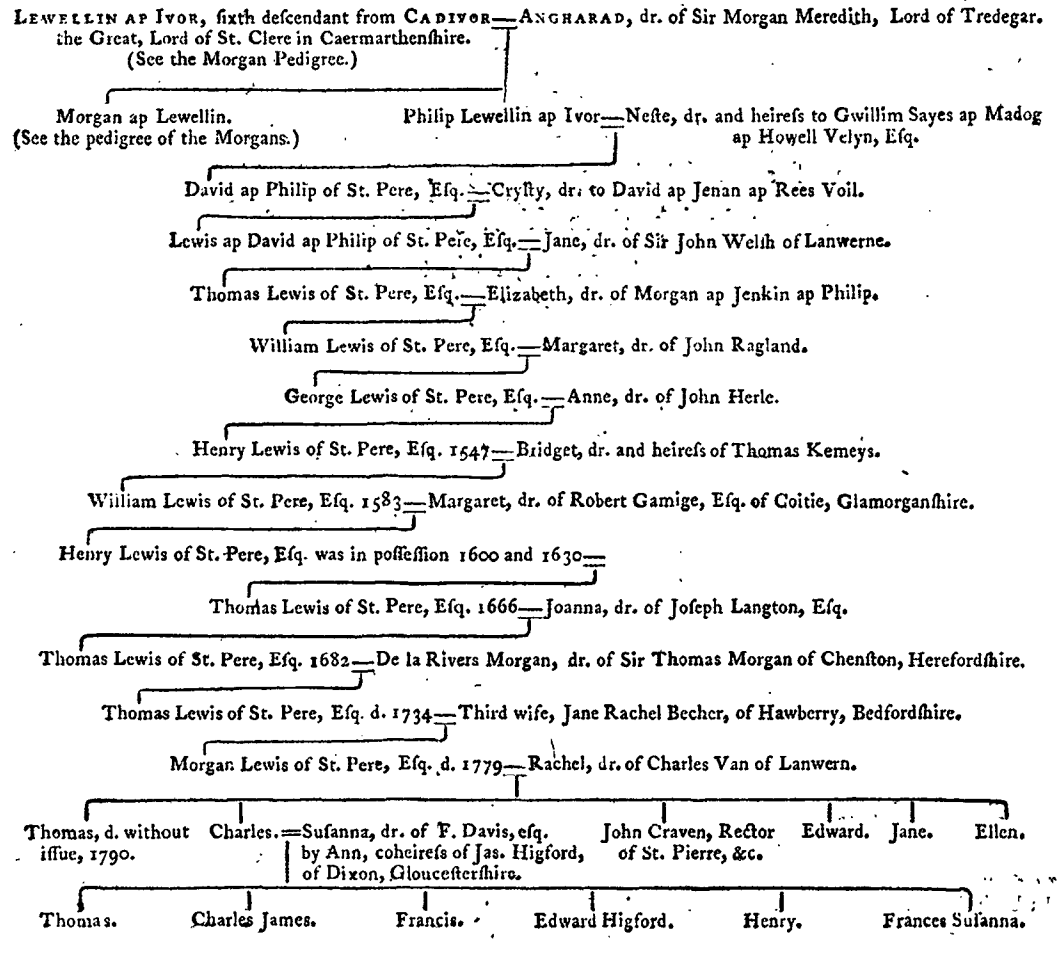
Dr. Milles, late dean of Exeter, concludes, from the ſculpture and inſcriptions, that theſe ſtones were about the age of Edward the firſt, and ſuppoſes the words CORS V. to be corſu, the old French term for body. Others conjecture, with greater probability, that V. is intended for Urien, and that it is the tomb of Urien St. Pierre, knight. According to Dugdale, he lived in the reign of Henry the third, and died 1239, leaving, by his wife Margaret, a ſon Urien de St. Pierre, then ſixteen years of age. "He was alſo a knight, and left iſſue John de St. Pere, 8 E. III. who was probably the laſt male heir of that line, for Iſabella de St. Pere, his ſiſter and heireſs, about 30 E. III. was married to Sir Walter Cokeſey, knight, who died 6 H. IV. †"

It

* The engraving in the Archæologia is more correct than that in the Gentleman's Magazine: for the hand which holds the croſs is claſped, and not open. In both, however, there is a defect; the blank ſlip, as it is called in the Gentleman's Magazine, and which puzzled Mr. Pegge, does not exiſt in the manner repreſented in the engravings; it is only that part of the ſtone which is not cut down.

† Gent. Mag. vol. 35. p. 72.

It alſo appears, from the pedigree of the Lewis's here annexed, that about this period David, ſon of Philip ap Lewellin, was poſſeſſor of St. Pierre; but whether it devolved to him by purchaſe, or by marriage, there are no documents in the family to determine. Philip ap Lewellin, founder of the line of Lewis of St. Pierre, was a younger ſon of Lewellin, lord of St. Clere, in Caermarthenſhire, who became lord of Tredegar, by eſpouſing Angharad, daughter of ſir Morgan Meredith. The ſucceſſion has continued in an uninterrupted line from the firſt ſettlement of David ap Philip of St. Pierre. The preſent proprietor is Charles Lewis, eſquire, on whom the eſtate devolved, by the death of his brother Thomas Lewis, eſquire, without iſſue.


Lewellin ap Ivor, ſixth deſcendant from Cadivor the Great, Lord of St. Clere in Caermarthenſhire. (See the Morgan Pedigree.)
Angharad, dr. of Sir Morgan Meredith, Lord of Tredegar.
Morgan ap Lewellin. (See the pedigree of the Morgans.)
Philip Lewellin ap Ivor
Neſte, dr. and heireſs to Gwillim Sayes ap Madog ap Howell Velyn, Eſq.
David ap Philip of St. Pere, Eſq.
Cryſty, dr. to David ap Jenan ap Rees Voil.
Lewis ap David ap Philip of St. Pere, Eſq.
Jane, dr. of Sir John Welſh of Lanwerne.
Thomas Lewis of St. Pere, Eſq.
Elizabeth, dr. of Morgan ap Jenkin ap Philip.
William Lewis of St. Pere, Eſq.
Margaret, dr. of John Ragland.
George Lewis of St. Pere, Eſq.
Anne, dr. of John Herle.
Henry Lewis of St. Pere, Eſq. 1547
Bridget, dr. and heireſs of Thomas Kemeys.
William Lewis of St. Pere, Eſq. 1583
Margaret, dr. of Robert Gamige, Eſq. of Coitie, Glamorganſhire.
Henry Lewis of St. Pere, Eſq. was in poſſeſſion 1600 and 1630
Thomas Lewis of St. Pere, Eſq. 1666
Joanna, dr. of Joſeph Langton, Eſq.
Thomas Lewis of St. Pere, Eſq. 1682
De la Rivers Morgan, dr. of Sir Thomas Morgan of Chenſton, Herefordſhire.
Thomas Lewis of St. Pere, Eſq. d. 1734
Third wife, Jane Rachel Becher, of Hawberry, Bedfordſhire.
Morgan Lewis of St. Pere, Eſq. d. 1779
Rachel, dr. of Charles Van of Lanwern.
Thomas, d. without iſſue, 1790.
Charles.
Suſanna, dr. of F. Davis, eſq. by Ann, coheireſs of Jas. Higford, of Dixon, Glouceſterſhire.
John Craven, Rector of St. Pierre, &c.
Edward.
Jane.
Ellen.
Thomas.
Charles James.
Francis.
Edward Higford.
Henry.
Frances Suſanna.

R.H.del.

W.B.direx.

EPISCOPAL PALACE AT MATHEM.

Published March 1.1800. by Cadell & Davies. Strand.

ASIATIC

CHAPTER 2.

Mathern.—Ancient Reſidence of the Biſhops of Landaff.—Church.—Inſcription on King Theodorick.—Moinſcourt.—Runſton.

FROM St. Pierre I croſſed the brook called Pool Meyric, which falls into the Severn, and forms the Pill of St. Pierre, and walked about half a mile to Mathern, formerly the epiſcopal reſidence of the biſhops of Landaff. It is pleaſantly ſituated in an undulating country, a mile and a half to the ſouth-weſt of Chepſtow, and is remarkable in the eccleſiaſtical hiſtory of Monmouthſhire. Leland calls Mathern "a preaty pyle in Baſe Venteland, longing to the biſhop of Landaff*." The laſt biſhop who reſided at this place was William Beaw, who died in 1706, with whom the grandmother of the preſent tenant lived in the capacity of houſekeeper.

The palace was built by different biſhops. The tower, porch, and other parts to the north and north eaſt, were probably conſtructed by John de la Zouch, a monk of the order of Minorites, who was conſecrated in 1408. Miles Salley, who was promoted to the ſea in 1504, erected the chapel, hall, kitchen, and adjoining apartments †. The preſent kitchen was the ancient ſitting room, and the hall is a well proportioned lofty apartment.

The palace, which is a quadrangular building, incloſing a court yard, is now converted into a farm houſe, and is in a ſad ſtate of dilapidation; it ſtill, however, preſerves ſome remains of ancient grandeur, and from its irregularities has a pictureſque effect. The outſide ornaments of the eaſtern window of the chapel are ſtill viſible. The dilapidations have even extended to the library, which was once not inconſiderable: There now remain only a few worm-eaten volumes of the ancient fathers, without covers, and mouldering into duſt. Within the memory

* Leland's Itin. vol. 5. fol. 6. † Godwin, De Præſulibus Angliæ.

memory of the preſent tenant, a fine porch formed the entrance into the yard, and was remarkable for its height and breadth, being ſufficiently large to admit two waggons abreaſt.

The eſtate, now belonging to the biſhop of Landaff, is let for forty pounds a year: ſeveral adjoining buildings, particularly the public houſe, were appendages to the palace, when the biſhops reſided here in a ſtyle of magnificence ſuitable to their rank and ſituation.

Mathern is ſuppoſed to derive its name from Merthur Tewdric, which ſignifies the martyr Theodoric, who, according to the ancient legends of the ſee, and an inſcription in the chancel, was buried in the church; the hiſtory of this perſonage is thus related by Godwin, in his account of the ſee of Landaff*:

" The manor of Matherne, where there is now a palace, was given to the biſhops of Landaff by Maurice, king of Glamorganſhire, about the year 560, on the following occaſion: His father, St. Theodoric, as he is uſually called, having reſigned his crown to this ſon, embraced the life of a hermit. The Saxons invading the country, Theodoric was reluctantly called from his hermitage to take the command of the army; he defeated them near Tintern upon the Wye; being mortally wounded in the engagement, he precipitated his return, that he might die among his friends, and deſired his ſon to erect a church, and bury him on the ſpot where he breathed his laſt: he had ſcarcely proceeded five miles, when he expired at a place near the conflux of the Wye and the Severne; hence, according to his deſire, a ſmall chapel being erected, his body was placed in a ſtone coffin. As I was giving orders to repair this coffin, which was either broken by chance, or decayed by age, I diſcovered his bones, not in the ſmalleſt degree changed, though after a period of a thouſand years, the ſkull retaining the aperture of a large wound, which appeared as if it had been recently inflicted. Maurice gave the contiguous eſtate to the church, and aſſigned to the place the name of Merthur Tewdrick, or *the martyrdom of Theodorick*, who, becauſe he periſhed in battle againſt the enemies of the chriſtian name, is eſteemed a martyr."

In commemoration of theſe facts, a church is ſaid to have been erected on its preſent ſite by his ſon Meurig, or Maurice, who is ſuppoſed by ſome to be the father

* Art. Oudoecius, De Præſulibus Angliæ,

father of the Arthur ſo renowned in Britiſh ſtory. Biſhop Godwin repaired the tomb, and compoſed the epitaph or memorial, which is placed on the north ſide of the chancel.

" Here lyeth intombed the body of
Theoderick, King of Morganuch or
Glamorgan, commonly called
St. Thewdrick, and accounted a martyr,
becauſe he was ſlain in a battle againſt
the Saxons, being then Pagans, and in
defence of the Chriſtian religion. The
battle was fought at Tintern, where he
obtained a great victory. He died here
being in his way homeward, three
days after the battle, having taken
order with Maurice his ſon who ſuc-
ceeded him in the Kingdom, that in the
ſame place he ſhould happen to deceaſe, a
church ſhould be built, and his body buri-
ed in y^e^ ſame, which was accordingly performed
in the year 600."

Maurice is ſaid to have given the manor of Mathern to the ſee of Landaff; but all theſe accounts are very uncertain and fabulous.

The preſent church is ſo much altered and repaired, that it is difficult to aſcertain the æra of its conſtruction; it is, however, much poſterior to the Conqueſt. The body is of rag ſtone, and is plaſtered; the tower, which is lofty and ſquare, is of hewn ſtone uncoloured; the windows are gothic, but of different ages. The inſide of the church conſiſts of a nave, two ſide aiſles, and a chancel; the nave is ſeparated from the aiſles by low circular arches, repoſing on ſlender columns; at the extremity of the north aiſle is a pointed arch which gives a whimſical and motley appearance to this ſide of the colonade.

A few remains of painted glaſs windows, which ſeem to repreſent armorial bearings, prove its former magnificence; among which, I noticed the portcullis, the

creſt of the Beaufort family. The biſhop's throne is a ſimple wooden pew; over the ſeat is inſcribed,

" Poſuit ſibi et ſucceſſoribus Theophilus Landavenſis
" Epiſcopus Ann. Dom. 1622. Refecit Ed. Creſſet, 1671."

The firſt of theſe biſhops, mentioned in this inſcription, was Theophilus Field, fellow of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, and rector of Cotton, Suffolk, who was biſhop of Landaff in 1619, tranſlated to St. David's 1628. The other Edward Creſſet, dean of Hereford, was promoted to the ſee of Landaff in 1748, and died in 1755.

In the church are interred a few of the biſhops who reſided at Mathern, and died without being tranſlated. I could not diſcover any traces of their tombs; but biſhop Godwin has recorded their names. Hugh Jones, who was the firſt Welſhman raiſed to the ſee, was preſented in 1566, and died in 1574. William Blethyn, another Welſhman, was conſecrated biſhop in 1575, and died in 1590. Matthew Murray, a native of Scotland; he was provoſt of Eton College, and biſhop of Fernes; was tranſlated to the ſee of Llandaff in 1627, and departed this life in 1639.

But the moſt remarkable perſonage in this liſt was Anthony Kitchin, who was a Minorite friar. His monkiſh appellation was Dunſtan, but he aſſumed, at the Reformation, his real name: he is mentioned by biſhop Godwin as the ſhame and reproach of the ſee; although addicted to the Roman catholic worſhip, he was the only biſhop who took the oath of ſupremacy, according to the new forms preſcribed by Henry the eighth and Elizabeth. Of him biſhop Godwin ſays, in the Engliſh edition of his work: " He was conſecrated May 3, 1545, and enduring all the tempeſtuous changes that happened in the meane time, continued till the 5 yeere of her Majeſtie that now reigneth, viz. the yeere 1563, and then died, having firſt ſo impoveriſhed the biſhopricke by unreaſonable demiſes, of whatſoever was demiſeable, as there was no great cauſe he ſhould be ſo loth to leave it *."

Sir John Harrington, ſpeaking of the ſmall revenues which were annexed to the

ſee

* See Godwin's Lives of the Biſhops, Lat. and Eng. edit. Article Llanda".

ſee of Landaff, accuſes him as the cauſe, and, in a quibbling age, heaps upon the name of Kitchin pun upon pun *.

Near Mathern church is Moin'ſcourt; in ancient deeds it is called Monk's-court, and an adjoining field is denominated Monk's mead. Theſe appellations ſeem to imply that it was formerly a religious houſe, and probably the cell of ſome monaſtery. The preſent ſtructure was built or repaired by biſhop Godwin, and his arms carved in ſtone, are placed over the front door. It was the reſidence of Thomas Hughes, a gentleman of conſiderable property, whoſe family was connected with that of biſhop Godwin by marriage; his grand-daughter Sarah, conveyed it to her huſband Richard Lyſter of Roughton in Shropſhire, and it is now the property of their great-grandſon John Owen, Eſq. of Penros in Montgomeryſhire: it is uſed as a farm houſe.

A large ſtone gate-way leads into the court yard, which is much more ancient than the houſe; it is extremely pictureſque, and is formed by a high gothic porch, flanked with lofty towers; a beautiful and ſpreading oak overnangs one extremity, and conſiderably heightens the effect. An engraving of this portal is given, from a drawing by Sir Richard Hoare.

In the walls, which incloſe the court yard, I obſerved two of the Roman inſcriptions, which Gibſon, in the ſupplement to Camden, mentions as having been found at Caerleon, and transferred by biſhop Godwin to their preſent ſituation: they are conſiderably defaced, and without Gibſon's aſſiſtance, I could not have fully

* It is doubtleſſe a wonderfull antiquity that my authour produced of Llandaff, that it profeſſed chriſtianity, and had a church for religion in the yeare of 180. But alas, for a man to boaſt of great nobility, and goe in ragged clothes, and a church to be praiſed for great antiquity, and make ruinous ſhowes, is in mine opinion according to the vulgar proverbe, *a great boaſt, and a ſmall roaſt.* But by this author's relation it appeares, this *roaſt* was ſo marred by an ill *Cooke*, as by a worſe *Kitchen*; for in the year 1545, being the 37 yeere of Henry the eighth, Doctor *Kitchen* being made of an idle abbot, a buſie biſhop, and wading through thoſe hazardous times that enſued till the firſt yeere of Queen Elizabeth, to ſave himſelfe was content to *ſpoile* his biſhoprick: Satan having in thoſe dayes more care to ſift the biſhopricks then the biſhops, elſe how was it poſſible for a man of that rancke to ſing *Cantate domino canticum novum* four times in fourteen yeeres, and never ſing out of tune, if he had not lov'd the *Kitchen* better then the church. Howbeit, though he might ſeeme for name ſake to favour the *Kitchen*, yet in *ſpoyling* that ſea hee was as little friend to the *Kitchen* as the reſt, ſpoyling the woods and good proviſions that ſhould have warm'd it, which gave occaſion to Dr. Babbington, now biſhop of Worceſter, to call it *Aph* without land, and Doctor Morgan after to remove to Saint Aſſaph, from thence not for name ſake, but for his owne name ſake, that is *More-gaine.*"—Nugæ Antiquæ, Vol. 1. p. 191.

fully deciphered them. The firſt is carved in grit-ſtone; the letters are an inch in length: I eaſily deciphered the firſt ſeven, and the laſt word Reſtituit. The inſcription commemorated the reſtoration of the Temple of Diana, by T. Fl. Poſtumius Varus.

T. FL. POSTVMIVS VARVS.
V. C. LEG. TEMPL. DIANAE
RESTITVIT.

Interpreted by Gibſon, to mean, "Titus Flavius Poſtumius Varus Veteranus Cohortis Legionis Secundæ Templum Dianæ reſtituit." But by Horſley, as implying "Vir clariſſimus Legatus, &c."

The other inſcription is cut in free-ſtone: the letters are an inch and a half in length, and well proportioned: I traced the words Pro ſalute Aug. N. N. Severi et Antonini, evidently proving it to be a votive altar, dedicated to the Emperor Severus and his two ſons Caracalla and Geta, with this peculiarity, that the words Geta Cæſaris, ſeem to have been eraſed, after his aſſaſſination.

PRO SALVTE
AVGG. N. N.
SEVERI ET ANTONI
NI
P. SALTIENVS P. F. MAE.
CIA THALAMVS HADRI.
PRAEF. LEG. II. AVG.
C. VAMPEIANO, ET
LVCILIAN.

From Mathern I returned to the new paſſage on horſeback; I entered the high road two miles from Chepſtow, and turning to the left, proceeded ſtrait till I came to the gate-way leading into the park of St. Pierre. At this point three roads diverge; one goes through Caerwent to Newport, the ſecond to Caldecot, and the third leads to Portſcwit and the new paſſage: theſe roads are narrow and ſtony, but are pleaſantly lined with

"Hedge row elms, and coppice green."

The ſlopes of the eminences are feathered with groves of foreſt trees, and much underwood. On one ſide I caught glimpſes of the broad Severn, of the ſteep Cliffs of Auſt, and the rich hills of Gloceſterſhire; on the other I obſerved two conſpicuous hills of an oblong ſhape, which tower above Lanvair, and ſhelve gradually into a cultivated ridge, that again riſes and terminates in the rocky and wood-crowned cliffs of Piercefield.

Oppoſite to the back road, leading to St. Pierre, I turned near a farm houſe, called Tyers Gate; and riding through a narrow lane to Broadwell farm, aſcended to Runſton, which was once a place of ſome magnitude and antiquity, if we may judge from the extent and appearance of its ruins, and from the broad cauſeways which lead towards it; they occupy an eminence on the ſide of the road, leading to Shire Newton, in the midſt of a thick and ſolitary wood. The ſite of the place may be traced to a conſiderable diſtance by numerous foundations; but not a ſingle building remains, except an old barn, and a dilapidated chapel.

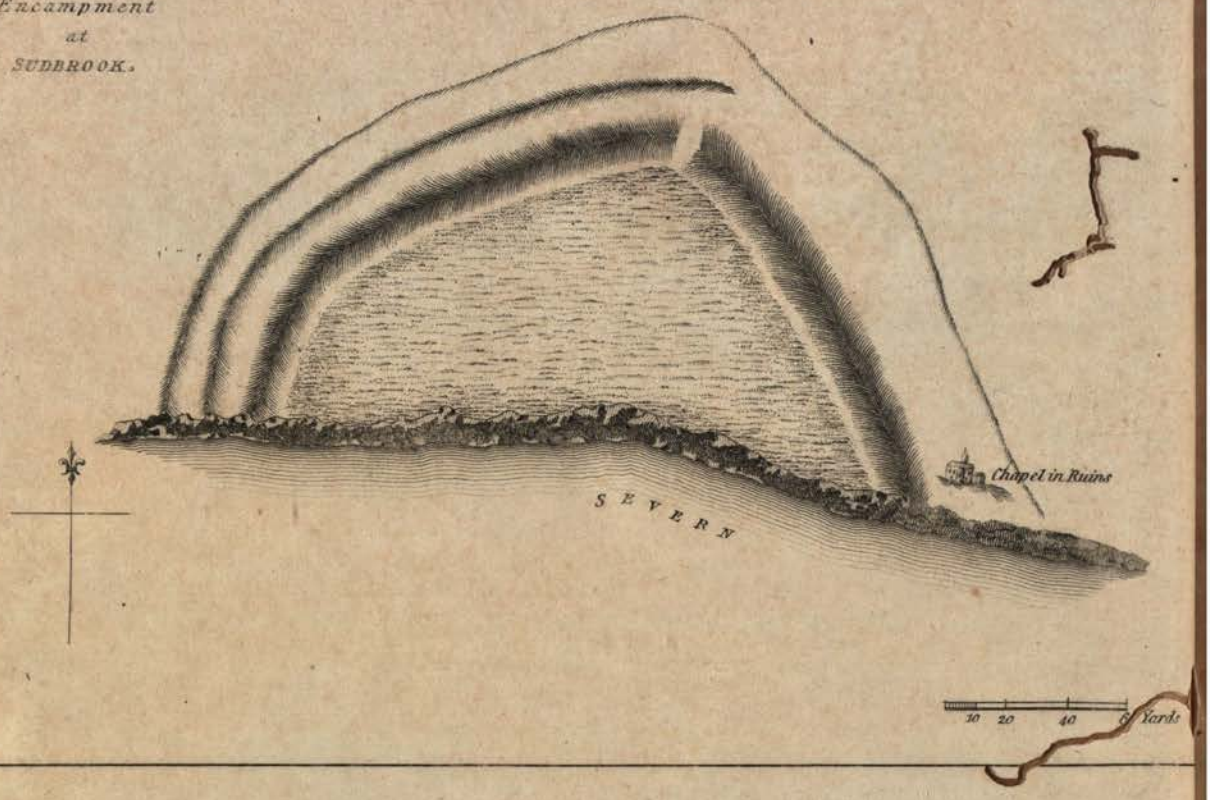
Evening had juſt ſet in, and the moon ſhone in its full ſplendour, affording light ſufficient, through the gloom of the ſurrounding trees, to examine the ſtructure: it is a ſtone building of ſmall dimenſions, with the remains of a tower at its weſtern extremity. The door-way is covered with a ſimple ſtone lintel, and the windows are all rounded; the nave is ſeparated from the chancel by a ſtone ſcreen, in the midſt of which is a low and narrow ſemicircular arch of the moſt ſimple kind: the roof was fallen down, and the pavement which remained was ſo ſlippery, that I could ſcarcely walk upon it without falling; a large and broken font was lying on the floor, among the weeds and elder trees. The obſcurity of this ruined ſanctuary, was only broken by the gleams of moonſhine, and the melancholy ſilence interrupted by the ſound of my footſteps, and the ſcreams of the birds, which I diſturbed from their nightly repoſe.

This chapel is annexed to Mathern; ſervice has been performed here within this century; and about thirty years ago, a man of the name of William Jones was here interred. The eſtate of Runſton belongs to the family of St. Pierre, with which pariſh it is joined in the poor rates.

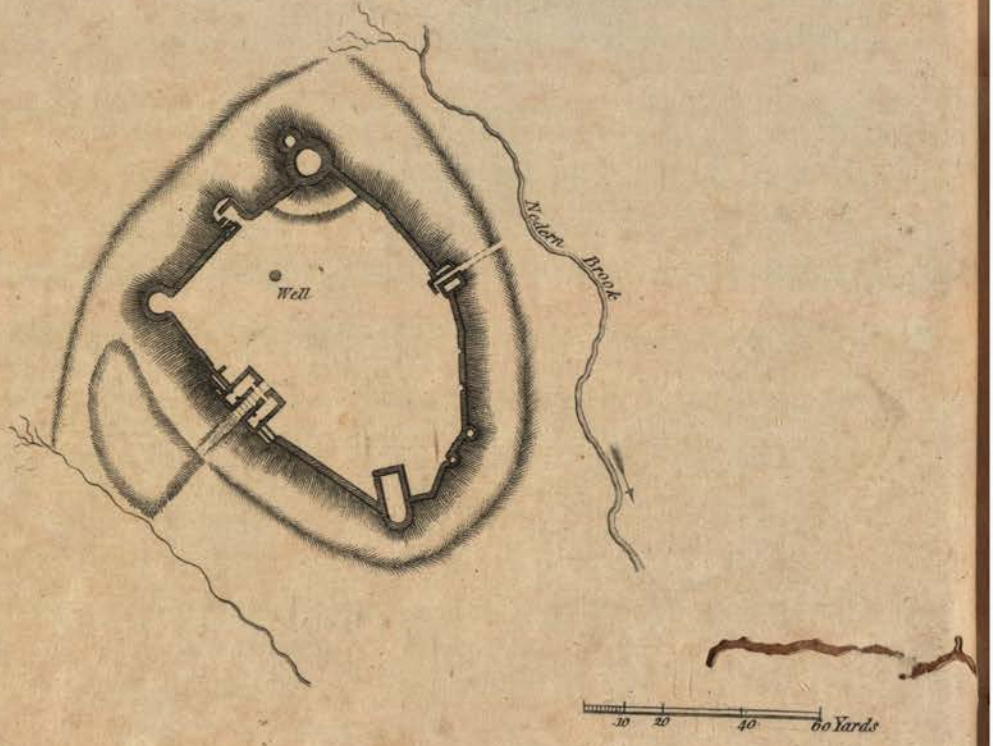
From Broadwell farm, a narrow and hollow way leads into the high road from Chepſtow to Newport, at the village of Crick; its depth and narrowneſs, and the height

height of the hedges on each ſide, afforded a ſtriking ſpecimen of the hollow roads which were ſo common in Monmouthſhire before the conſtruction of turnpikes, and reminded me of an anecdote, which my own experience proved to be but little exaggerated. The gentlemen of the county oppoſing the turnpike act, Valentine Morris of Piercefield, who was a ſtrenuous promoter of it, was examined at the bar of the houſe of Commons; being aſked "What roads are there in Monmouthſhire?" He replied, "none." "How then do you travel?" "In ditches."

Encampment
at
SUDBROOK.



Ground Plan
of
CALDECOT CASTLE



CHAPTER 3.

Sudbrook Encampment.—Chapel.—Portſcwit.—Caldecot Caſtle.

TO the weſt of the new paſſage inn, near the ruins of Sudbrook or Trinity Chapel, are remains of an entrenchment, which are uſually ſuppoſed to be Roman; they occupy a flat ſurface on the edge of a perpendicular cliff, and are nearly in the form of a ſtretched bow *, whoſe cord is the ſea coaſt. The entrenchment is formed by a triple rampart of earth, and two ditches; the two exterior ramparts are low, and in many places deſtroyed; the interior is in greater preſervation, and not leſs than twenty feet in height. On the two extreme parts of the elevated rampart towards the ſea, I obſerved heaps of ſtones and rubbiſh, which ſeem to be the remains of ancient buildings; among theſe were two or three ranges of large ſtones, placed on each other, without cement, and others of the ſame kind which had fallen down, ſtrewed the adjacent ground. A large opening in the rampart towards the north, ſtill remaining, was formerly the great entrance; the diſtance from the opening to the cliff meaſured about 77 yards, the chord 200. This encampment being formed on an eminence, riſing abruptly from Caldecot Level, I could eaſily trace, that the ſide towards the Level, had been once the ſhore; and that, therefore, the place occupied by the ramparts was a peninſula.

It is generally imagined that this entrenchment, in its preſent ſtate, is not perfect, and that half of it has been deſtroyed by the ſea, which has likewiſe carried away

* Harris, in his account of this entrenchment, is extremely erroneous: he deſcribes it as ſquare, with the church ſtanding in the middle. The word *ſquare*, has induced many authors, who have never ſeen it, to conſider it as Roman. Harris deſerves applauſe for having firſt turned the public attention to the antiquities of Monmouthſhire; but I am concerned to add, that I found many of his deſcriptions extremely inaccurate. He is ſo much prepoſſeſſed with the idea of Roman antiquities, that he conſiders the moſt trifling and uncertain appearances as indications of Roman origin. I think it neceſſary to make this obſervation, becauſe his accounts have been ſervilely copied by ſuperficial writers. See Harris's account of the antiquities in Monmouthſhire, in the Archæologia, Vol. 2.

away part of the church yard. It is likewiſe by many ſuppoſed to have been a maritime fortreſs, erected by the Romans to cover the landing of their troops, and their firſt ſtation in Siluria; an opinion grounded on the erroneous deſcription of Harris, and on the diſcovery of a ſingle coin, ſtruck by the city of Elaia in honour of the emperor Severus *. For notwithſtanding repeated enquiries among the farmers and labourers of the vicinity, I could not learn that any coins or Roman antiquities had been found within the memory of the preſent generation. It has been alſo attributed to the Britiſh, Saxons, and Danes; but was occupied, if not conſtructed by Harold during his invaſion of Gwent.

The picturesque ruins of the chapel ſtand on the outſide of the great rampart, to the ſouth-eaſt next the ſea: the building is wholly in the gothic ſtyle, and of very ſmall dimenſions. It now ſtands at the diſtance of half a mile from any habitation, but was probably, in former times, the chapel to a great and contiguous manſion; for we find that in the 12th century, John Southbrooke is mentioned, as being entitled to houſe-boot and hey-boot, from the Conqueſt, for his houſe at Southbrooke †. Within the memory of ſeveral perſons now living, divine ſervice was performed therein; and a labourer whom I met on the ſpot, aſſiſted forty years ago as pall-bearer, and pointed out the half of a dilapidated grave ſtone, under which the corpſe was interred.

After indulging my curioſity at this place, I deſcended the rocky eminence into the marſhy level of Caldecot, and walked to Portſcwit, now a village at the diſtance of a mile from the ſhore, but formerly waſhed by the ſea, and probably the

* "That this was a Roman work, the Britiſh bricks and Roman coins there found are moſt certain arguments; among which, the reverend father in God Francis, biſhop of Landaff, by whoſe information I write this, imparted to me of his kindneſs one of the greateſt pieces that I ever ſaw coined, of Corinthian copper, by the city of Elaia, in the leſſer Aſia, to the honour of the emperor Severus, with this Greek inſcription. "ΑΥΤ. ΚΑΙ. Α. CΕΠΤΙ. CΕΒΗΡΟC. ΠΕΡ. i. e. "The emperor Cæſar Lucius Septimus Severus Per-"tinax;" and on the reverſe, an horſeman with a trophy erected before him, but the letters not legible, ſave under him, "ΕΛΑΙΑΩΝ," i. e. of the Elaians; which kind of great pieces the Italians call Medaglions, were extraordinary coins, not for common uſe, but coined by the emperors, either to be diſtributed by way of largeſs in triumphs, or to be ſent for tokens to men well deſerving, or elſe by free cities, to the glory and memory of good princes. What name this place anciently had, is hard to be found, but it ſeems to have been the port and landing place for Venta Silurum, which is but two miles from it."—Holland's tranſlation of Camden, vol. 2. p. 485, quoted alſo by Gough.

† Deed on the Chaſe of Wentwood. Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, Appendix, p. 189.

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SUDBROOK CHAPEL.

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KEEP OF CALDICOT CASTLE.

Published March 1, 1800, by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

the port to Caerwent: its name, Port is Coed, or the port under the wood, ſeems to corroborate this opinion*, and it is ſtill further confirmed by the ſituation, as I evidently diſcerned that the ſea once advanced as far as the village.

Caradoc in his hiſtory, tranſlated by Powel, informs us, that Harold, after conquering part of South Wales from prince Gryffyth, built a magnificent houſe at this place, which he calls Portaſcyth in Monmouthſhire; "and ſtowing it "with great quantity of proviſion, ſplendidly entertained the king, who ho- "noured him with a viſit. This was by no means pleaſing to Toſty, to ſee his "younger brother in greater eſteem and favour with the king than himſelf, and "having concealed his diſpleaſure for a time, could not forbear at length but "diſcover his greivance; for one day at Windſor, while Harold reached the cup "to king Edward, Toſty, ready to burſt for envy, that his brother was ſo much "reſpected beyond himſelf, could not refrain to run furiouſly upon him, and "pulling him by the hair, dragged him to the ground; for which unmannerly "action, the king forbad him the court. But he, with continued rancour and "malice, rides to Hereford, where Harold had many ſervants preparing an enter- "tainment for the king, and ſetting upon them, with his followers, lopped off "the hands and legs of ſome, the arms and heads of others, and threw them into "the buts of wine and other liquors, which were put in for the king's drinking, "and at his departure charged the ſervants to acquaint him, "That of other "freſh meats he might carry with him what he pleaſed, but for ſauce he ſhould "find plenty ready provided for him." For which barbarous offence, the king "pronounced a ſentence of perpetual baniſhment upon him. But Caradoc ap "Gruffydh gave a finiſhing ſtroke to Harold's houſe, and the king's entertain- "ment at Portaſcyth; for coming thither ſhortly after Toſty's departure, to be "revenged upon Harold, he killed all the workmen and labourers, with all the "ſervants he could find, and utterly defacing the building, carried away all the "coſtly materials, which with great charges and expence, had been brought "thither to beautify and adorn the ſtructure †".

The

* Others ſuppoſe, Portſcwit to be a corruption of Port Scewin, from Eſcewin, king of the Weſt Saxons, who is ſaid to have landed his forces here to aſſail the Welſh. Evans's Specimens of Welſh Poetry.

† P. 97.

The ruins of Caldecot or Calecoyd * caſtle, ſtand at the extremity of marſhy plains, called Caldecot Level, and are ſituated in the midſt of a flat meadow to the north-eaſt of the village, about a mile from the Briſtol channel. From this low ſituation, they ſeemed at ſome diſtance a rude and unformed maſs; but as we approached, aſſumed a more regular appearance; and in thoſe parts where they were broken, and the yellow tints of the ſtone contraſted with the thick foliage of the ivy, were not deficient in pictureſque effect.

A ridge of land, probably once fortified, connects the weſtern ſide of the caſtle with the village. The ground on the outſide of the moat is quite marſhy, and appears to have been overflowed, perhaps by the tide, ſo that the caſtle ſtood on a peninſula. This marſhy plain is traverſed by the brook Nedern, which flows from Caerwent, and winding round the eaſtern and ſouthern ſides of the caſtle, falls into the Severn at Caldecot Pill.

The caſtle is ſurrounded by a moat, and in its firſt appearance ſeems to be of a quadrangular ſhape, but is an irregular polygon. The area in its greateſt length is 100 yards; it differs in breadth; the greateſt width is 75 yards, and not more than 40 towards the eaſtern ſide, where the walls trend in a circular direction. The walls, the thickneſs of which varies from 5 to 9 feet, are formed with coarſe materials, but the towers are faced with hewn grit ſtone, the maſonry of which is extremely neat and compact.

The caſtle ſeems to have been conſtructed and repaired at different intervals, but on the whole bears a Norman character. The round tower, in the middle of the ſide fronting the village, was probably erected near the time of the conqueſt, for the doorway has a rounded arch; the other parts ſeem to be of a later date, as all the porches and windows are pointed, but of that ſpecies which was uſed not long after the introduction of what is called gothic architecture. The principal entrance is to the ſouth weſt; it is a grand arched gateway, which was ſtrengthened with two portculliſes, and flanked with maſſive turrets, now ſo much covered with ivy, that the upper part is ſcarcely diſcernible. In the inſide of the arch above, are round holes, formed for the purpoſe of pouring down hot lead or ſtones on the beſiegers. The ſtone engroined roof of the porch is ſtill remaining.

In

* A corruption, as Mr. Owen informs me, of Cil y Coed, or the ſkirt of the wood.

R.H. del.

W.B. dir.

SOUTH EAST VIEW OF CALDICOT CASTLE.

Published March 1 1800 by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

In the towers on each ſide, are three oblong apartments with chimnies: oppoſite is another entrance, which is a hexagon tower, with a machicolated roof. A ſally port, which is more pointed than the arch of the grand entrance, leads into the moat.

At the northern angle is a high round tower, on a mound of earth, encircled with a ditch; this was undoubtedly the keep or citadel, and ſeems to have communicated with all the towers, by means of galleries on the battlements. Another tower, at the ſouthern angle, is almoſt dilapidated; it appears to have been of an oblong ſhape, terminating in a circular projection towards the moat, which was a favourite figure with the Saxon architects. To the eaſt of this building is a large breach in the walls, which opens a proſpect of the area, with the citadel riſing in the back ground; from this point of view, ſir Richard Hoare took the drawing of the annexed engraving.

Between this tower and the principal gateway, was probably the baronial hall, which we could trace by the ornamented gothic windows. The inſide is much dilapidated, but foundations of buildings, projecting into the area, are ſtill diſcoverable: in the lower parts of the north-eaſt walls, are four fire-places, of no inelegant ſhape, which prove the exiſtence of apartments on this ſide. On the back of one of theſe chimneys, I obſerved traces of the ſpecies of maſonry called herring-bone, which was uſed in buildings of an early period.

The hiſtoy of Caldecot caſtle is obſcure, and I have been able to diſcover only ſcanty documents of its founders and proprietors. The ponderous ſtyle of the building, and the chinks and merlons, which are few in number, prove its antiquity: probably the moſt ancient part may have been the caſtle begun by Harold, and afterwards finiſhed by the Normans, while they were engaged in ſubjugating and ſecuring Gwent. This fortreſs was of conſiderable importance for the purpoſe of retaining in ſubjection the ſouth eaſtern parts of Monmouthſhire. It was early in the poſſeſſion of the great family of Bohun. According to Dugdale, Humphrey, earl of Hereford*, the fifth of that line, did homage in 1221, and had

* Camden erroneouſly aſſerts, that the caſtle of Caldecot belonged to the conſtableſhip of England; but it appears to have been the private property of the great Bohun family, Earls of Hereford, and hereditary conſtables of England; from which circumſtance this miſtake of Camden is derived.

had livery of his caſtle of Caldecot, which was one of his father's poſſeſſions *: he was called the good earl of Hereford, and dying in 1275, was buried before the high altar in the abbey of Lanthony. Humphrey, his fifth deſcendant, died in 1373, leaving only two daughters; Eleanor, who eſpouſed Thomas of Woodſtock, duke of Glouceſter, ſixth ſon of Edward the Third; and Mary, the wife of Henry of Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry the fourth. Thomas of Woodſtock obtained the earldom of Hereford, the conſtableſhip of England, and, among other poſſeſſions, the caſtle of Caldecot.

Probably the caſtle, on the attainder which preceded his aſſaſſination in 1397, was ſecured by the crown. Humphrey, his only ſon, was compelled to accompany the king to Ireland, and impriſoned in the caſtle of Trim. On the depoſition of Richard the ſecond, being releaſed by the new ſovereign, Henry the fourth, he either was ſhipwrecked as he was croſſing into England, or periſhed by the peſtilence in 1399.

On his death, without iſſue, his ſiſter Anne became coheireſs to the large poſſeſſions of the houſe of Bohun: ſhe married Edmund earl of Stafford, the anceſtor of the duke of Buckingham; who, according to Dugdale †, did homage in 1402 for his wife's inheritance, and died ſeiſed of Caldecot caſtle. He was ſlain at the battle of Shrewſbury, leaving an infant ſon, who became a ward to the crown.

Soon after the acceſſion of Henry the fifth, the poſſeſſions of Humphrey de Bohun were divided, by act of parliament, between the king, as heir of his mother Mary, and Anne, counteſs Stafford, widow of the earl of Stafford, as heireſs of Eleanor.

It appears from the partition roll of the eſtates of Humphrey de Bohun, in the archives of the duchy of Lancaſter, that the caſtle of Caldecot was comprehended in the portion aſſigned to the crown §. On the attainder of Henry the ſixth, it was transferred to Edward the fourth by act of parliament ‖, who granted it, with many other poſſeſſions, in tail male, to William lord Herbert of Raglan, afterwards earl of Pembroke, for his great ſervices againſt the houſe of Lancaſter. The earl of Pembroke being ſlain at the battle of Banbury, it reverted to Henry ſixt

* Dugdale, vol. 1. p. 180.

† Dugdale, art. Stafford.

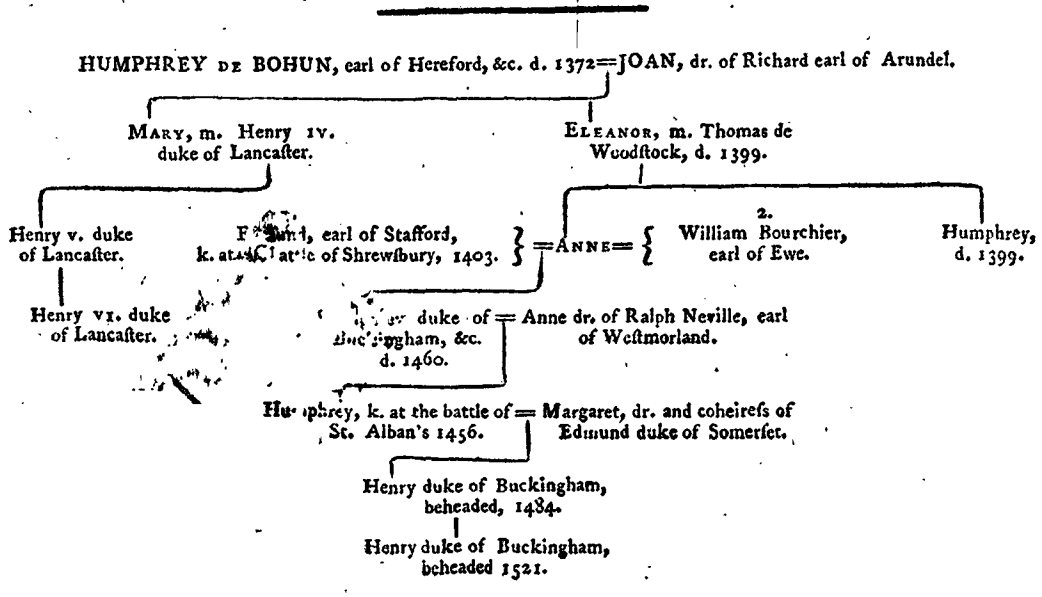
§ Archives of the duchy of Lancaſter. Roll, 12 preſs. 266. Dugdale, art. Stafford.

‖ Archives of the duchy of Lancaſter. Rot. 4. Ed. 4 No. 22.

ſixth, during his ſhort-lived ſucceſs, and was again reſumed by Edward the fourth. Richard the third reſtored it, by act of parliament, to Henry duke of Buckingham, who had principally contributed to raiſe him to the throne: he was lineally deſcended from Anne, counteſs of Stafford, and in the bill, is ſtyled "heir of blood to Humphry de Bohun, and rightful inheritor of all the manors, "lordſhips, and lands, which were parcel of the inheritance, and choſen in pur-"partie, by Henry the fifth, and which, on the attainder of Henry the ſixth, "would have reverted to the duke of Buckingham, if they had not been ap-"propriated by act of parliament to Edward the fourth." Being, however, diſſatisfied with Richard, and raiſing forces to ſupport the title of the earl of Richmond to the crown, the duke of Buckingham was arreſted and beheaded at Saliſbury.

His ſon and ſucceſſor Henry, being accuſed of plotting againſt the life of Henry the eighth, and aſpiring to the crown, was, by the intrigues of cardinal Wolſey, ſentenced to death, and beheaded in 1521. The parliament having in the enſuing

DESCENDANTS OF HUMPHREY DE BOHUN.


HUMPHREY DE BOHUN, earl of Hereford, &c. d. 1372
JOAN, dr. of Richard earl of Arundel.
MARY, m. Henry IV. duke of Lancaſter.
ELEANOR, m. Thomas de Woodſtock, d. 1399.
Henry V. duke of Lancaſter.
earl of Stafford, k. at the battle of Shrewſbury, 1403.
ANNE
2. William Bourchier, earl of Ewe.
Humphrey, d. 1399.
Henry VI. duke of Lancaſter.
duke of Buckingham, &c. d. 1460.
Anne dr. of Ralph Neville, earl of Weſtmorland.
Humphrey, k. at the battle of St. Alban's 1456.
Margaret, dr. and coheireſs of Edmund duke of Somerſet.
Henry duke of Buckingham, beheaded, 1484.
Henry duke of Buckingham, beheaded 1521.

ing year paſſed an act for his attainder, his poſſeſſions were forfeited to the crown, and Caldecot caſtle was annexed by the king to the duchy of Lancaſter *.

Since this period it has belonged to the duchy, and is, like the other eſtates, held by lease †. During the reigns of Elizabeth, James the firſt, and Charles the firſt, it was granted to the Earls of Worceſter, at the annual rent of £. 52. 13s. 4d. In 1675, it was leaſed to William Wolſeley for ſixty years, and ſoon after the expiration of that term to John Hanbury, Eſq. of Pont y Pool; and is now held by his ſon Capel Hanbury Leigh, Eſq.

The caſtle appears to have been long in a ſtate of dilapidation; for at a court held in 1613, the jury ſtate, "they doe preſent, that there is an old antient "caſtle in Caldicott, and that it is ruinous and decayed; that the cauſe of the "decay thereof they cannot preſent, for it was before the memory of the jury, "or any of them, by whom, or to what value they know not ‡."

Caldecot church is not unworthy of notice. It conſiſts of a nave, a ſide aiſle to the north, with a maſſive tower in the middle, and a chancel. The ſtyle of architecture is gothic: the nave is ſeparated from the ſide aiſle by five pointed arches on cluſtered piers; the windows are ornamented gothic, and contain ſeveral remains of painted glaſs, principally repreſenting coats of arms.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary: on the outſide of the wall, over the ſouthern door, is a ſmall figure of the Virgin in a niche; and in a receſs in the wall, within the porch, is a headleſs recumbent figure in ſtone, which is called the image of the founder.

The living is a vicarage, and was formerly in the gift of the monks of Lanthony, to which it was probably granted, by one of their great benefactors, the earls of Hereford of the Bohun family. The patronage was ſome time in the poſſeſſion of the Kemeys family, and now belongs to Mr. Johnſon in virtue of his marriage

* For the account of Caldecot caſtle have been conſulted, archives of the duchy of Lancaſter; Dugdale, art. Bohun, Woodſtock, Stafford, and Herbert; Edmonſon's Heraldry, art. Conſtable of England.

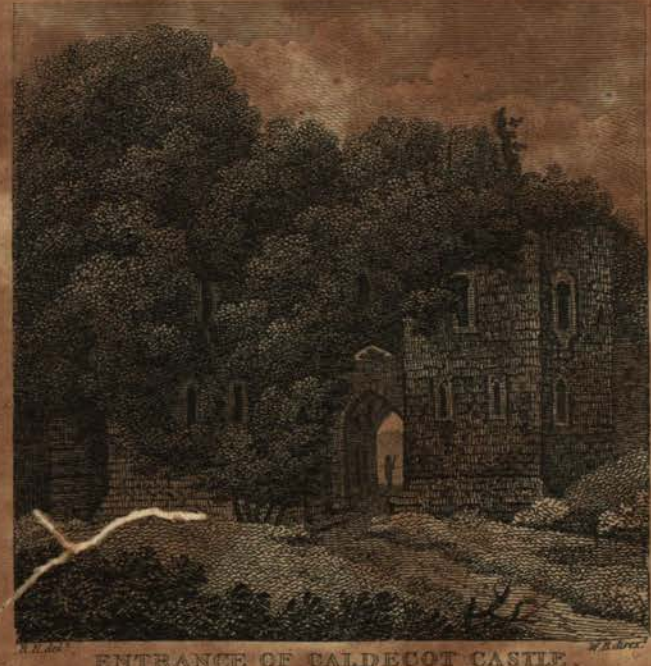
† The *Campus* of Caldecot appears to have been granted by leaſe diſtinct from the caſtle, with the warren of rabbits, birds, and fish. The firſt leaſe is dated in the time of Elizabeth, to John Vaughan; and it is ſtated to be within the Lordſhip of Kidwelly: Archives.

‡ Archives: Inquiſitio Com. Mon^th, Tertia pars, No. 10.

marriage with the heireſs. The tythes are ſingularly appropriated. The great tythes belong to Mr. Hill, and the vicarial are divided into ſeven unequal portions, of which ſix are appropriated to ſix lay vicars, and the ſeventh belongs to the incumbent.

The denomination of lay vicars applied to the perſons to whom ſix portions of theſe tythes are appropriated, ſeems to denote the exiſtence of a conſiderable religious houſe in this place. Neither Tanner or Dugdale take any notice of ſuch an eſtabliſhment; but the author of the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, mentions a priory houſe at Caldecot in the reign of Charles the ſecond, belonging to Sir Charles Kemeys*, in whoſe deſcendants the patronage of the living was veſted.

* Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, p. 120.



ENTRANCE OF CALDECOT CASTLE.

CHAPTER 4.

Crick.—Caerwent.—Roman Antiquities,—Preſent State.—Dinham.

ON quitting the inn of the new paſſage, I rode through the village of Portſcwit, leaving the church, a ſmall gothic building, on the left, near which a tranſparent rill burſts from the ground with a conſiderable body of water, and after forming a large pool, runs into the Severn. Soon afterwards I came to the gate of St. Pierre, where the three roads unite, and continued along the highway leading to Newport and Caerdiff. In a little more than a mile, I paſſed through the neat village of Crick, from which place the road continues in a ſtrait direction to Caerwent, and was undoubtedly the ſite of a Roman way. The foundations of the cauſeway are yet viſible; and I am informed that this part is uncommonly compact and dry. I obſerved on the ſides of the road in ſeveral places, large hewn ſtones, overgrown with the moſs of centuries, which were probably employed in the conſtruction of the old cauſeway.

A gentle riſe leads to the eaſtern gate of Caerwent, the Venta Silurum of the Romans, now reduced to an inconſiderable village. It is ſituated on an eminence, ſloping gradually into the plain. During ſeveral journies which I made through this place, I examined the few remains of Roman antiquities which ſtill exiſt. Its ſhape is nearly an oblong parallelogram, of that kind which the Romans called tertiata caſtra; becauſe two of the parallel ſides were nearly one third longer than the others. The walls incloſe an area of little more than a mile in circumference; the longer ſides being 505 yards, and the ſhorter 390; the north ſide is curvilinear. The corners are rounded, according to a practice ſtyled by writers on military architecture, circinatio angulorum: a method diſapproved by Vitruvius, "quia hoſtem magis tuentur quam civem;" becauſe they defend the enemy rather than the beſieged. The poſition of the fortreſs is north-weſt and ſouth-eaſt, the angles being nearly in the direction of the four cardinal points.

Road to Caldecot
to Chepstow
Church
From Newport

The high road to Chepſtow, which was the ſite of the Roman cauſeway, interſects it at right angles, and divides it nearly into two equal parts, paſſing through two openings, which were the eaſtern and weſtern gates. The remains of the maſonry at the eaſtern gate are ſtill viſible; and a ſtone, to which one of the hinges was attached, ſtands at the door of a public houſe, and is uſed as a ſtepping-ſtone for mounting horſes.

I more than once made the circuit of the walls, which I was able to trace in every direction. All the ſides, except the ſouthern, are defended by a deep moat. The height of the walls appeared to be from 12 to 24 feet, though from their dilapidated ſtate it cannot be exactly aſcertained: the thickneſs at the bottom is 12 feet, and at top not leſs than 9. The ſouthern wall is the moſt perfect, and for a conſiderable length almoſt entire; the weſtern part of this ſide is ſtrengthened with three pentagonal projections or baſtions of ſtone.

The facings, which are ſtill viſible in many parts, are principally oblong pieces of limeſtone, occaſionally intermixed with grit or ſand ſtone. The inſide is a compoſition of mortar*, rag ſtones, and pebbles. The places from which the facings have been taken ſhew the internal ſtructure, preſenting broken and angular pieces bedded in the mortar, and compacted by it into one ſolid body. The maſſive ſtrength of this cement is proved by a large fragment, which has fallen from the ſouth wall: it meaſures 20 feet in length, 12 in height, 9 in thickneſs, and, what is moſt remarkable, it appears to have revolved in its fall, and preſerves, unbroken, the ſame poſition as when it formed part of the original ſtructure. In tracing the circuit of the Roman fortreſs, the walls preſent a ſingular and diverſified appearance. In ſome places they are mantled with ivy, in others their ſummits are fringed with ſhrubs, or capped with trees which ſtart from the crevices, and overſhadow the ruins with their pendent foliage.

Several remains of antiquities, particularly pedeſtals, and teſſelated pavements, prove the ſplendor of the Roman ſtation. Mr. Strange has given, in the Archæologia, an engraving of one which he diſcovered within the walls, about the

* In making the Roman mortar, the ſand was mingled with the ſtone, unrefined by the ſcreen, and charged with all its gravel and pebbles. Irregular pieces of ſtone were placed in a kind of frame, and over it was poured the boiling mortar, which pervaded the maſs, and bound it into a ſtrong and ſolid wall; it was then caſed with hewn ſtone.

the diſtance of a hundred yards from the weſtern entrance; this is now deſtroyed. Another moſaic pavement is ſtill viſible in a field at the ſouth weſt angle: it was incloſed within a ſmall building, which preſerved it from deſtruction; but the roof having been taken down, it is haſtening faſt to decay. The form and general poſition are eaſily diſtinguiſhed, but many of the teſſeræ are loſt, and the colour of others much damaged.

On my laſt viſit to Caerwent, the pavement was ſo much covered with weeds, that it may be ſaid only to

" Live in deſcription, and *look green* in ſong."

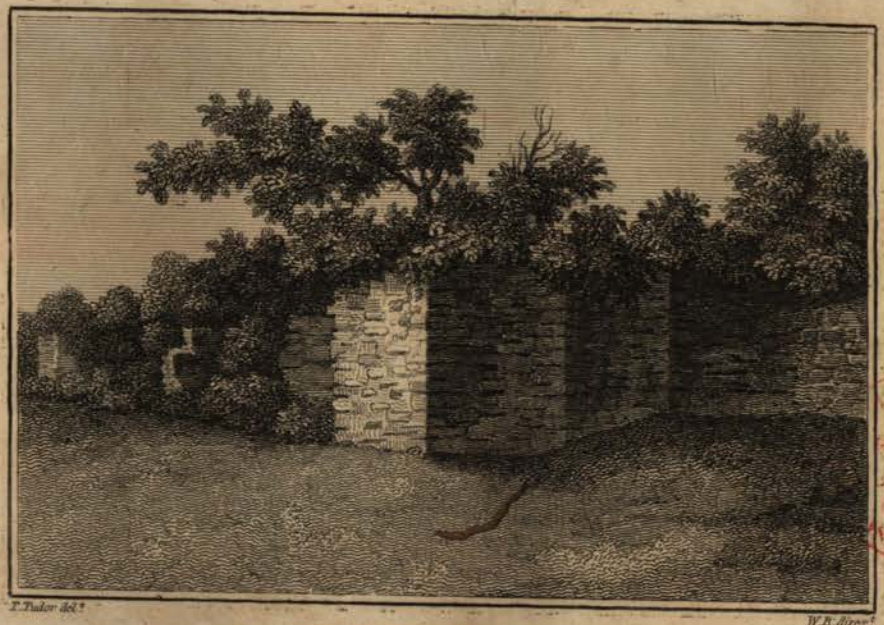
I ſhall therefore preſent to the reader the accurate account of my friend Mr. Wyndham, who ſaw it when it was firſt diſcovered, and in its perfect ſtate.

" The pavement is in length twenty-one feet ſix inches, and in breadth eighteen feet. A border, edged with the Greek ſcroll and fret, ſurrounds the whole, but on the north ſide this border, being upwards of three feet, is much broader than on the other ſide. This was deſigned, in order to reduce the circles within a ſquare. Theſe circles are about three feet in diameter, and are encircled with a variety of elegant ornaments, and ſeparated from each other by regular and equal diſtances. I think there are thirteen of theſe circles. The pieces of which the pavement is compoſed are nearly ſquare, the breadth of them being about the ſize of a narrow die. Theſe are of various colours, blue, white, yellow, and red; the firſt and ſecond are of ſtone, and the yellow and red are of terra cotta. By a judicious mixture of thoſe colours, the whole pattern is as ſtrongly deſcribed as it would have been in oil colours. The original level is perfectly preſerved, and the whole compoſition is ſo elegant and well executed, that I think it has not been ſurpaſſed by any moſaic pavement that has been diſcovered on this, or even on the other ſide of the Alps. In my opinion it is equal to thoſe beautiful pavements which are preſerved in the palace of the king of Naples at Portice. I am ſtrongly inclined to think, that it is of the ſame age with Agricola*."

The field in which this moſaic pavement lies, contains ſeveral hillocks and mounds of

* Archæologia.

EASTERN ENTRANCE OF CAERWENT.



T. Taylor del.t

W.B. direx.t

BASTION OF THE SOUTH WALL.

LIBRARY
OF THE
ROMAN
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Published March 1 1800 by Cadell & Davies, Strand

of earth, which were evidently formed by foundations and ruins of old buildings. I underſtood, from ſeveral of the natives, that another much larger pavement had been diſcovered, but the proprietor conceiving that his ground would be injured by the excavations, ordered it to be cloſed. This field was probably the ſite of the prætorium. Towards its extremity, which is the ſouthern angle of the fortreſs, is a mound or tumulus of earth, which might have been uſed both as an exploratory tower and as a means of defence.

In ploughing up the grounds and digging for foundations, numerous Roman coins are conſtantly found. I purchaſed a few; namely, a Fauſtina in ſilver; Antoninus Pius, Tetricus, Conſtantius, and Magnentius, in braſs.

Venta Silurum is named in the 14th Itinerary of Antoninus, in the 11th of Richard, and by the monk of Ravenna; it is not mentioned by Ptolemy, whoſe account of the interior of Britain is extremely defective. From the ſize of the area, which is not inferior to that of Caerleon, and from the ſtrength and height of the walls, it appears to have been a military ſtation of great importance. According to the opinion of ſome authors, the walls were erected under the lower empire, becauſe the Romans did not uſe turrets or flankers, like thoſe of the ſouth wall, before that æra; but it may be inferred, with equal probability, that the turrets were added ſince the conſtruction of the original fortreſs. According to Richard of Cirenceſter, it was garriſoned by ſtipendiaries, and had been the capital of the Silures. I could not however trace, either on the ſpot or in the vicinity, the ſmalleſt veſtiges of a Britiſh encampment. Probably the ancient reſidence of the Silures was demoliſhed on the conſtruction of the new fortreſs, and the Roman ſtation occupied the ſite of the Britiſh capital.

Some authors, without the ſmalleſt evidence, call it the ſeat of Arthur's government; others, no leſs erroneouſly, conſider the walls as Saxon, without reflecting that the Saxons never had permanent poſſeſſion of this part of the country till the time of Edward the Confeſſor. A native author likewiſe ridiculouſly aſſerts, that, "an academy for the inſtruction of arts and ſciences was founded and erected here by one Tathy, a Briton; and ſuppoſed to be the firſt academy or univerſity in the Britiſh dominions †."

In

* General Roy's Remarks on the Roman Stations in Scotland.

† Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, p. 51.

In the middle ages, the name of Caerwent never occurs in the hiſtories of Britain, and rarely in the Welſh chronicles, and it never ſeems to have ſuſtained a ſiege, or withſtood the predatory incurſions of the Saxon or Norman invaders. The members of that branch of the illuſtrious family of Clare who were ſeated at Chepſtow, are occaſionally called lords of Caerwent; but it does not appear that it was poſſeſſed by the later proprietors of Chepſtow. In ſubſequent times, the manor of Caerwent belonged to the family of Langibby*; and in 1701, was conveyed to John Jefferys, eſq. the anceſtor of earl Camden. His ſon and heir ſold it, in 1749, to the late admiral Matthews, and the preſent proprietor, Colonel Wood of Piercefield, purchaſed it from his ſon William Matthews, eſq. of Landaff †.

The area of this once Roman fortreſs is laid out in fields and orchards, and contains, beſides the church, the parſonage, and a ſingle farm houſe, a few ſcattered cottages, built with the facings of the walls and ancient buildings. The number of ſouls amounts to no more than ninety.

The church, with its high embattled tower, is a conſpicuous object from the adjacent parts; it is built principally with hewn ſtones, and other materials of Roman ſtructures; and though at preſent much too extenſive for the inhabitants, was once conſiderably larger. It conſiſts of a tower, a nave, and a chancel; and had once two aiſles, for the ſide walls ſtill exhibit traces of arches and windows, now filled up. The doors and windows are gothic.

The view from the church yard is agreeable, and diverſified with a pleaſing intermixture of hill and dale; fields of corn and paſture are contraſted with the wildneſs of foreſt ſcenery, and the two oblong hills which riſe above the ruined towers of the caſtle of Lanvair, form a principal feature in this delightful landſcape.

I had a pleaſant ride, by the ſide of the eaſtern wall, and over fields of corn and paſture, to Dinham, a ſmall village, a mile and a half to the north of Caerwent. At this place was formerly a caſtle, which is mentioned by the author of the

* An act of parliament paſſed in the reign of William and Mary, empowering Sir John Williams to ſell the manor of Caerwent, together with ſeveral other eſtates. From William Adams Williams, eſq.

† From the title deeds, communicated by Colonel Wood.

Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, as one of the ſix caſtles which compaſſed the foreſt or chace of Wentwood. The village conſiſts of a few cottages and two farm houſes. Near one of theſe is an old barn, with ſeveral gothic doors, which appears to have been formerly a chapel.

The ruins of the caſtle ſtand on a gentle riſe, near a road leading to Wentwood, and are ſo much overgrown with trees, as to be ſcarcely diſcernible in the midſt of the foreſt. Nothing but a few dilapidated walls remain, from which neither the ſite of the ancient edifice, nor the foundation can be traced. This caſtle muſt have been long in a ſtate of demolition, as it is neither mentioned by Leland or Camden, or any of his continuators. The ruins are called by the natives, the old chapel.

As I found nothing either in this place, or in the way, to engage my attention, I haſtened back to Caerwent, and purſued my journey through the opening of the walls which once formed the weſtern gate, gently deſcending to the brook which riſes near Striguil caſtle, in the borders of Wentwood, and is here called the Nedern. I croſſed it over a ſtone bridge, and followed the courſe of the Julia ſtrata, veſtiges of which I ſeveral times clearly diſcerned, particularly at the ſixth mile ſtone, and in a field cloſe to the preſent road, not far from a place which is called the four lanes, from the union of four roads, leading to Lanvair, Caldecot Level, Caerwent, and Penhow.

The road runs in a valley bounded by ridges of wooded hills, which converge near Penhow, and form a narrow paſs, once commanded by the caſtle. Here I found a quiet and comfortable inn, the ſign of the Rock and Fountain; where I occaſionally took up my abode, and from whence I made ſeveral excurſions into the neighbouring parts.

CHAPTER 5.

Caſtles of Penhow, Pencoed, Lanvair, and Striguil.—Bertholly Houſe.—Views from the Pencamawr, and Kemeys Folly.

THE author of the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire informs us, "there were ſix caſtles that compaſs the foreſt or chaſe of Wentwood, as Dinham, Penhow, Pencoed, Lanvaches, Lanvaire, and Caſtrogy caſtles, the ſeats of, or belonging to ſome of the principal tenants of Wentwood, and within the purlieus and limits thereof *." It is probable that moſt of theſe edifices were built by the family of Clare, who ſubdued this part of Monmouthſhire, for the purpoſe of curbing the natives, a bold and ſpirited race, and of inſuring their conqueſts by a chain of ſmall fortreſſes, or caſtellated manſions.

Having already deſcribed the ſcanty remains of Dinham caſtle, and finding no traces of any ruins at Lanvaches, I ſhall give an account, in this chapter, of the four remaining caſtles, which were the ſubject of excurſions from Penhow.

The caſtle of Penhow was the ancient poſſeſſion of the illuſtrious Seymour family, or, as it is written in Camden and the early genealogiſts, St. Maur, from a place of that name in Normandy. This family came over to England about the time of the conqueſt, for in 1240, ſir William Seymour, by the aid of Gilbert Marſhal, earl of Pembroke, recovered from the Welſh Undy † and Penhow, and his family were ſettled at both thoſe places ‡. In 1270, ſir William Seymour reſided at this caſtle, and obtained the privilege of houſe-bote and hey-bote, as appertaining

* P. 54.

† Undy is ſituated in Caldecot Level, about five miles from this place. No traces of the ancient manſion exiſt, but a few dilapidated walls.

‡ Camden.

appertaining to Penhow from the conqueſt. His ſon, ſir Roger Seymour, knight, who was one of the jury ſummoned to Chepſtow on that occaſion, enjoyed the ſame privilege for his houſe at Undy, by the half of a vineyard which is at Magor, and of the fee of Undy *.

In the reign of Edward the ſecond, the family was divided into two branches; the eldeſt brother, ſir John Seymour, continued at Penhow, and the ſecond, ſir Roger Seymour, by his marriage with Cecilia, daughter and coheireſs of John de Beauchamp, baron of Hache, obtained large eſtates in Somerſetſhire, whither he removed, and became anceſtor to the dukes of Somerſet and Northumberland.

The branch which reſided at Penhow, terminating without iſſue male, the caſtle came into the poſſeſſion of the family of Bowlays or Bowles †, either by purchaſe, or marriage with the heireſs ‡. The family bore the arms of Seymour, and retained poſſeſſion till the extinction of the male line, when a daughter conveyed the caſtle and manor to her huſband, ſir George Somerſet of Badmonsfield, in the county of Suffolk, knight, third ſon of Charles firſt earl of Worceſter.

In 1694 it was purchaſed by the family of Lewis; and in 1714, the premiſes being ſeized for a debt to the crown, the caſtle, lordſhip, and eſtate, were ſold to Edward Lloyd of Briſtol, and now belong to Samuel Lloyd, eſq. of Newbury, Berkſhire.

The dimenſions of the caſtle are ſmall, and the preſent remains extremely inſignificant. Part has been converted into a farm houſe: the remainder conſiſts of a ſquare tower with battlements, and ſome low walls of an irregular ſhape. The porches and door-ways are gothic. The maſonry is indifferent, and chiefly compoſed of rubble ſtone plaiſtered.

The ſituation is wild and romantic. The caſtle ſtands on an eminence, riſing on one ſide abruptly in the midſt of a retired vale, thickly clothed with foreſts, and interſperſed with occaſional patches of arable land. It is ſo extremely ſequeſtered

* Hiſt. of Monmouthſhire.

† Collins calls it Bowlays. In a pedigree of the Vans, Edmund Van, who lived in the time of Henry the eighth, married Jane, daughter of ſir Thomas Bowles of Penhow.

‡ According to Collins, Roger Seymour left a daughter, who married to a — Bowlays. According to Edmonſon, he died without iſſue. In that caſe, the family of Bowlays purchaſed the caſtle, which is not improbable, becauſe, Collins ſays, "the earl of Hertford wrote a letter to ſir John Thynne, deſiring to be informed, to whom his grandfather had *ſold* Seymour caſtle in Wales."

ſequeſtered, that from ſome points of view, ſcarcely a ſingle habitation is diſcerned.

The church, which is contiguous to the caſtle, is a ſmall but ancient building, and was probably conſtructed not long after the conqueſt; but has been ſince ſo much altered and repaired as to become a motley mixture of different ſpecies of architecture. It is dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt*. In the time of Enderbie, the arms of the Seymour family were cut in ſtone, and depicted in the glaſs, but of theſe ſcarcely any remains are extant.

I have frequently had occaſion to obſerve in Monmouthſhire, monumental inſcriptions of perſons who lived to a very advanced age. This church contains an inſtance which ought not to be omitted. "Underneath lyeth the body of "Eliz^th Jamplin, daughter of the late Revd Willm Williams, Rector of this "Pariſh, who departed this life July ye 5th 1753, Aged 111 Years."

The caſtle of Pencoed † ſtands to the ſouth of the high road leading from Chepſtow to Newport, about two miles ſouth weſt of Penhow, and five from Caerwent; it is ſituated at the extremity of a hilly and woody diſtrict, not far from Caldecot Level, commanding a delightful and extenſive proſpect of the Briſtol channel, and the fertile eminences of Somerſetſhire and Gloceſterſhire.

This caſtle appears to be the moſt ancient of theſe agrarian fortreſſes, and was probably conſtructed ſoon after the conqueſt. The principal remains are, a gateway with circular arches, flanked by two narrow pentagon turrets, a round embattled tower, and parts of the ancient wall. The gateway leads into the court yard of the manſion houſe, which was the area of the caſtle. Part of the manſion houſe is formed from the remains of the old caſtle, and part conſtructed at a more modern period; it is of conſiderable dimenſions, and though much dilapidated, exhibits, in the ſize and height of the apartments, traces of former magnificence; the principal entrance is formed by an elegant gothic porch. It is now converted into a farm houſe.

In 1270, ſir Richard Moore had a right, by charter, to houſe-bote and hey-bote to his houſe at Pencoed ‡. In the fifteenth century it was poſſeſſed by a younger

* According to Enderbie and others, the church is dedicated to St. Maur.

† Pen y Coed, or the eminence of the woods.

‡ Deed on the chaſe of Wentwood.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

PENHOW CASTLE AND CHURCH.

Published March 1.1800 by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

MANSION OF PENCOED.

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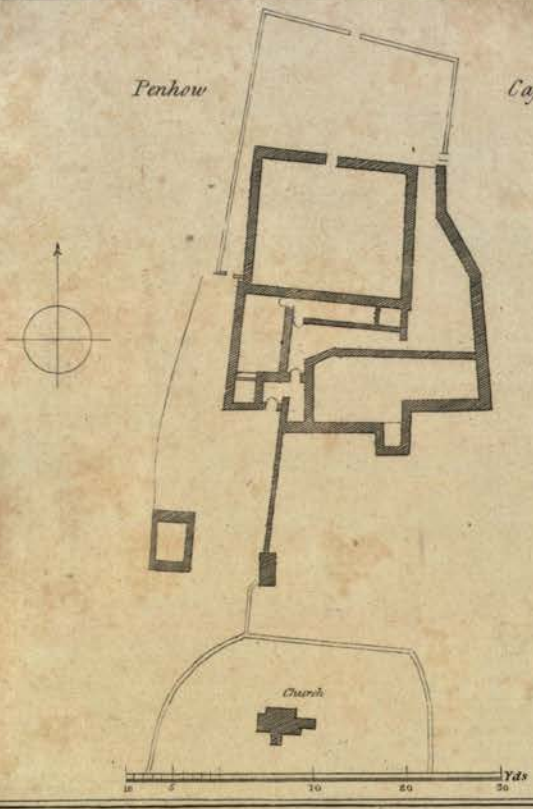
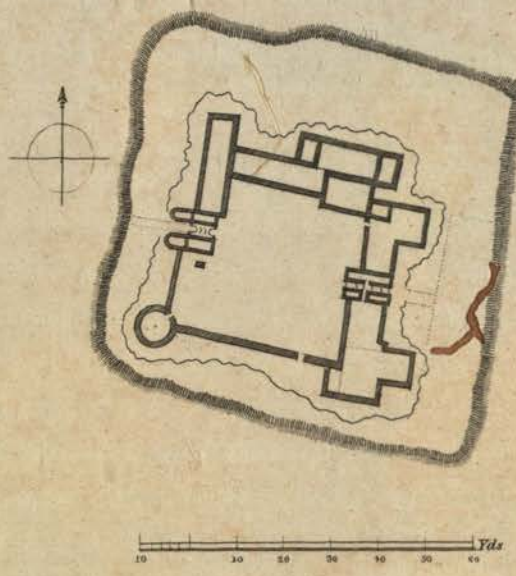
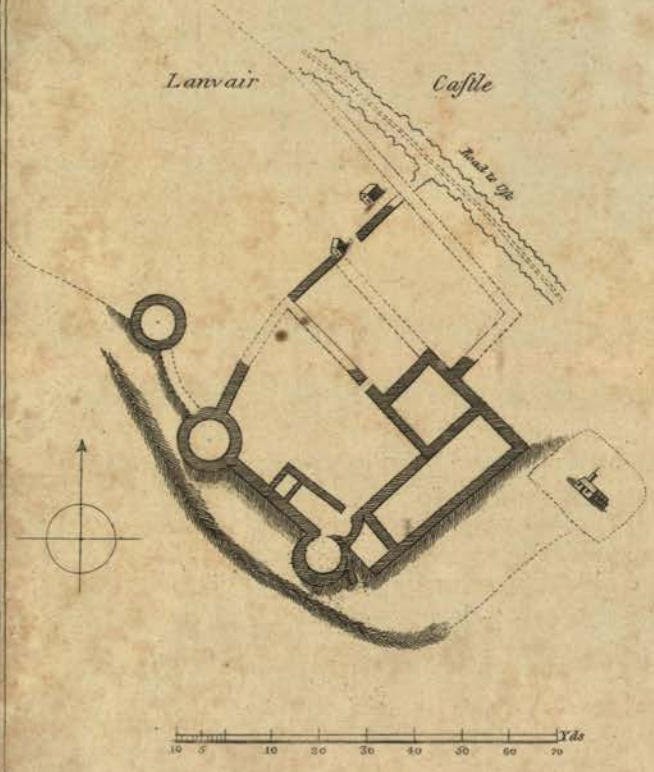
Penhow Castle



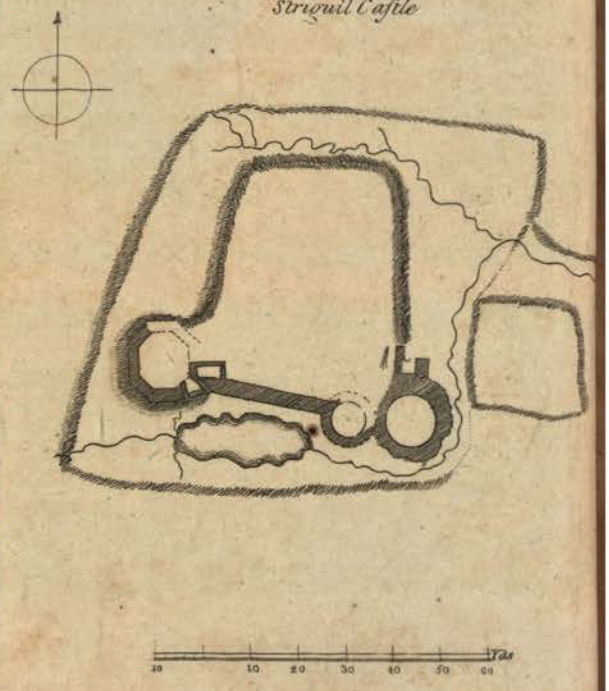
Pencoed Castle



Lanvair Castle



Striguil Castle



Tho. Morris fecit & del.

Pub. 30 July 1800. by Cadell & Davies Strand.

a younger branch of the Morgans * of Tredegar, in whoſe family it ſeems to have continued until the beginning of the ſeventeenth century, when ſir Walter Montague was the proprietor: he was ſheriff of Monmouthſhire in 1608, and by his will, dated 1614, left an eſtate to found an hoſpital for 10 or 12 poor perſons, and £.10 a year to a clergyman for performing divine ſervice at the chapel of Pencoed caſtle once a month. The hoſpital was founded, but no chaplain was ever provided; and the chapel is now in a ſtate of dilapidation. After his death the caſtle ſeems to have again reverted to the Morgans, for in the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, ſir Edward Morgan is mentioned as one of the gentlemen of the county, who in the reign of Charles the firſt oppoſed the incloſure of the chaſe of Wentwood †. In 1648 he was buried in the chapel of Itton ‡. The caſtle was afterwards the poſſeſſion of ſir Rowland Gwynn, knight; by deeds, dated 27th and 28th of April 1701, he conveyed it to John Jeffreys, eſq. whoſe ſon ſold it, in 1749, to admiral Matthews §. It is now the property of colonel Wood of Pierceſield, by recent purchaſe from John Matthews, eſq. of Landaff. In a private cemetery of the pariſh church of Lan Martin, ſir Walter Montague and his lady were buried, under a ſumptuous tomb of alabaſter: the roof having been taken down, the ſepulchres are totally dilapidated, and ſcarcely any remains of the alabaſter figures which repoſed on the tomb are diſcernible.

Lanvair caſtle is ſituated about a mile and a half from Penhow, and two miles to the north-weſt of Caerwent, near the high road leading from the new paſſage to Uſk. The ruins occupy a gentle eminence above the church. The area which formed the principal

* In the reign of Edward the fourth, Morgan Jenkin Philip was poſſeſſor of Pencoed. He married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Scudamore of Kentchurch, and great grand-daughter of Owen Glendower. Memoirs of Owen Glendower, in the Supplement to Mona Antiqua, p. 77 & 78.

Leland ſays, "Morgan the Knight of Low Wentlande, dwelling at Pencoite, a fair manor place, a mile from Byſt, alias Biſhopſton, and two miles from the Severn ſea. He is of a younger brother's houſe."

Enderbie, in his pedigree of the Morgans of Llantarnam, mentions a ſir Thomas Morgan of Pencoyd, knight, who married Joan, daughter and heireſs to John Gwillim Herbert, of Itton, eſq. And in the pedigree of the Morgans in the Cambrian regiſter, ſir Thomas Morgan of Pencoed is mentioned. Sir Morgan John of Tredegar, knight, married Mary, daughter of ſir T. Morgan of Pencoed.

† Appendix, p. 94.

‡ In memoria viri venerabilis prenobilis et laudibus digni Edwardi Morgan de Pencoed, in comitatu Monmothenſis equitis aurati, qui obiit undecimo die Julii Anno Domini 1648. From a MS. in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Jones of the Piſtill.

§ From the title deeds in the poſſeſſion of Colonel Wood.

principal court, is a kitchen garden, and a part of the foundations is occupied by a ſmall tenement, inhabited by the farmer who rents the eſtate.

The caſtle was once a large building, as is evident from the foundations, which may be traced to a conſiderable extent. The ſtrength may be eſtimated from the thickneſs of the walls, which in no part is leſs than ſeven feet. The preſent remains conſiſt of a ſquare and round towers, almoſt dilapidated, ſeveral high walls, and a round tower of nine feet diameter; it ſtands at the ſouth angle, and can only be entered by a ladder. A ſtaircaſe on the ſide leads to the top, which was once provided with battlements, and commands a pleaſing proſpect of an undulating and woody country. The fineſt view of the ruins is to the ſouth, where the round tower and the high broken walls exhibit a more magnificent appearance, than could be expected from a nearer approach. The view from the ſouth-eaſt, in a field called the warren, is more pictureſque, preſenting the round tower mantled with ivy, and ſome ſtrait walls with ſeveral arched windows,

" Boſom'd high in tufted trees."

In 1270 Lanvair, or as it was then called Lanveire, was poſſeſſed by Sir Robert Pagan, knight, who was one of the jury ſummoned to the court of Strigoill or Chepſtow, to determine who had a right of houſebote and heybote in the foreſt of Wentwood, which he proved himſelf entitled to as proprietor of the caſtle of Lanvair from the time of the conqueſt*. It afterwards came to a branch of the ancient Kemeys family, by marriage with the heireſs of the Pagans †, and was the ſeat of George ‡ Kemeys, who lived in the reign of James the firſt. Dying without iſſue, he bequeathed it to ſir Nicholas Kemeys of Kevenmably, on the frontiers of Glamorganſhire, who was created a baronet in 1642, and killed in defending Chepſtow caſtle §. The daughter and heir of ſir Charles Kemeys, his lineal deſcendant, conveyed it, with the other parts of the eſtate, to ſir Charles Kemeys Tynte, of Halſewell in the county of Somerſet. Major Halſewell married the ſiſter of ſir Charles Kemeys Tynte, and their only daughter eſpouſed Mr. Johnſon, to whom, in virtue of this connection, the caſtle and other eſtates now belong.

The

* Deed on the chaſe of Wentwood, quoted in the Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, p. 187.

† Genealogy of the Kemeys family. Communicated by George Kemeys, eſq. of Malpas.

‡ The portrait of George Kemeys is at Kevenmably.

§ Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire.

R.H. del.ᵉ W.B. direx.ᵉ

THE CASTLE AND OLD MANSION OF PENCOED.

Published March 2, 1800, by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

The caſtle takes its name from the contiguous church, which is dedicated to St. Mary; Lan-vair in Welſh ſignifying "The church of Mary." It is alſo called Lan-vair is Coed, or "below the wood." The village is ſituated under two hills of an oblong ſhape, covered with heath and ruſſet herbage, which make a conſpicuous figure, and are ſeen at a conſiderable diſtance. The one is called Mynwdd Llwyd, or the Grey Hill, and the other Allt yr Arfaid, or Wolves' Cliff.

The road from Lanvair to Striguil caſtle leads up a ſteep aſcent, through a wild and dreary diſtrict, thickly overſpread with foreſt trees and underwood; and croſſes the Wentwood, a large foreſt, remarkable in the hiſtory of Monmouthſhire. It was once of very conſiderable extent, but is now more confined, and contains 2170 acres *. It is the property of the duke of Beaufort, and occaſioned much controverſy between his grace's anceſtors and the gentlemen of the county, of which Rogers, in his Secret Memoirs, gives a circumſtantial account, interſperſed with many curious particulars relating to the hiſtory of Monmouthſhire. It is ſtill a continued tract of foreſt, and contains only a few cottages and the lodge.

Iſſuing from the deep gloom of this dreary and uninhabited diſtrict, I aſcended to the ſummit of the eminence called the Pencamawr †, a high point of the elevated ridge which ſtretches from the Treleg hills through the midland diſtrict of Monmouthſhire, and terminates near Caerleon. On reaching the height, a glorious proſpect ſuddenly burſt upon my view. From the midſt of the foreſt ſcenery I looked down on the rich vales of Monmouthſhire, watered by the limpid and winding Uſk, dotted with numerous towns and villages, and bounded to the weſt by the long chain of hills which ſtretch from Pont y Pool, and terminate in the maſs of mountains above Abergavenny. In this variegated landſcape I caught the firſt glimpſe of the Sugar Loaf and Skyrrid, which from their height and contraſt, form the principal features in the proſpects of this delightful country.

Slowly deſcending and enjoying the proſpect before me, I reached, in about a quarter

* Map of the duke of Beaufort's eſtate. † Pen y cae mawr, or the eminence of the great encloſure.

quarter of a mile, Striguil, or as it is called by the natives, Troggy caſtle; the ruins of which are ſituated in a flat and marſhy field, a little diſtance to the right of the high road. The remains are ſo much dilapidated, and ſo thickly mantled with ivy, that their general form is not eaſily aſcertained. They conſiſt of part of a ſmall octagon tower, and ſome walls with arched windows, from ſeven to eight feet thick, and neatly faced with hewn ſtone. The doorways are formed with pointed arches, and the windows, as far as could be judged from their preſent ſtate, were likewiſe gothic. The ſurveyor, Mr. Morrice, who traced the foundations with great attention, found them nearly of an oblong ſhape, with veſtiges of projecting towers at the ſouthern angles. He diſcovered alſo traces of a broad moat, watered by two lively ſtreams, that unite and form the brook which deſcends to Caerwent: it is here called Troggy, from the caſtle; and at Caerwent aſſumes the name of Nedern. Another little rill, which riſes near the caſtle, and flows into the Uſk, is ſometimes denominated Troggy Uſk.

Striguil caſtle is remarkable in the hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, not from its ſize or ſtrength, but from the general opinion that it was erected before the conqueſt, and gave the title of Striguil to a branch of the ancient family of Clare, once ſo powerful in theſe parts, the name of Strigulia to the adjacent region, and of Striguil to the caſtle and town of Chepſtow. This opinion, firſt advanced by Leland and Camden, and adopted by ſome modern topographers, does not appear conſonant to hiſtorical evidence, or local obſervation.

As I purpoſe enlarging upon this ſubject in the account of Chepſtow caſtle, I ſhall only obſerve, that this caſtle was not anciently called Striguil, whereas Chepſtow was diſtinguiſhed at a very early period by that appellation. And as the gothic windows and doorways plainly prove an æra of conſtruction poſterior to the conqueſt, at which time Chepſtow caſtle was erected *; it was probably a caſtellated manſion, built by Richard Strongbow, earl of Pembroke and Chepſtow, or Striguil, and called Striguil from its founder. The ſtyle of architecture accords with the æra in which he lived, and no part is as old as the eaſtern and ſouthern ſides of Chepſtow caſtle.

The

* Domeſday Book.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

RUINS OF LLANVAIR CASTLE.

Published March 1.1800 by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

The caſtle of Striguil belongs to the duke of Beaufort, and is erroneouſly ſuppoſed by many perſons to give the title of baron to that illuſtrious family.

An abrupt deſcent leads from theſe ruins through an open foreſt to Bertholly houſe, which deſerves to be viſited for the extreme beauty of its ſituation. It ſtands on a gently riſing ground, above the lower road leading from Caerleon to Uſk, and commands a moſt delicious view of the fertile vale and the diſtant mountains. The lawn and adjacent grounds are richly clothed with hanging groves of ancient oaks; and below the Uſk forms a curve, which is almoſt a complete circle. The irregular ſhape of the houſe well accords with the romantic ſcenery with which it is ſurrounded. I have ſeen few ſituations more pleaſing and ſtriking.

This houſe was an ancient ſeat of a branch of the Kemeys family, and came, by a marriage with the heireſs, to a Mr. Gardenor, who aſſumed the name of Kemeys, and is ſince dead. The eſtate was mortgaged to Mr. Rigby to a very conſiderable amount, and has been appropriated by government for the liquidation of his arrears.

In a ſubſequent excurſion, I rode from Striguil caſtle, along the ridge which ſtretches from the Pencamawr, and towers above Bertholly houſe, to the turnpike between Newport and Penhow. The road is a narrow level way, leading through groves of coppice, interſperſed with oak, beech, and other timber trees. The height commands at one time, the ſame view which I ſo much admired on the top of the Pencamawr, and at another the ſouthern parts of Monmouthſhire, with the Briſtol Channel, bordered by the hills of Somerſetſhire and Glouceſterſhire, till they are loſt in the expanſe of the ocean. The eye however is never ſatiated with a profuſion of objects, as the proſpects on each ſide preſent themſelves alternately, through occaſional glades in the foreſt. About two miles from the Pencamawr I came to a field, in the midſt of which, on an eminence, is a building denominated Kemeys' Folly, which comprehends a full proſpect of the rich and extenſive region on each ſide of the ridge. The delightful objects which had preſented themſelves, in ſucceſſion, are here combined into one grand and ſublime view, which is ſcarcely equalled in any other

part

part of Monmouthſhire. I continued on this ſpot till the gleams of the ſetting ſun no longer played upon the ſurface of the Uſk, and the approach of darkneſs overclouded the ſcene. I then remounted my horſe, and deſcending to the high road, returned to Penhow.

The tranſcendant beauty of the view, and the richneſs of the foreſt ſcenery, wholly engaged my attention, and I did not ſuſpect that I was treading the ſite of an old Britiſh way, which was formerly the road from Cardiff to Monmouth. It paſſes along a chain of ancient encampments, and branches from the Julia Strata near Caerleon.

R.H. del.ᵗ

W.B. direx.ᵗ

RUINS OF STRIGUEL CASTLE.

Published March 1.1800 by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

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CHAPTER 6.

Road to Newport.—Chriſtchurch.—Excurſion to Lanwern and Goldcliff.—Remains of the Priory.—Sea Walls.

FROM Penhow I continued along the turnpike road, and deſcended gently to Cat's Aſh, a public houſe about four miles from Newport, and oppoſite to the riſe that leads to Kemeys' Folly and the Pencamawr. From hence, I aſcended, and purſued my courſe along a natural terrace, three miles in length, which commands a ſucceſſion of proſpects, much admired by travellers who paſs this way into South Wales, becauſe it firſt preſents that mixture of the grand and beautiful which characteriſes the views of this delightful country. The rich vale of Uſk, and the chain of hills commencing with the undulating eminences of Glamorganſhire, and ſtretching in a continued ridge, majeſtic from its length and uniformity, till it terminates in the broken ſummits of the mountains near Abergavenny, are the ſame features, though differently grouped, which are ſeen from the Pencamawr. Here the flat and fertile levels of Caldecot and Wentloog, bordered by the Briſtol Channel, are finely contraſted with the rugged maſs of hills and mountains: the river Uſk appears in ſingular beauty; on the north it winds along the wooded valley at the bottom of this elevated ridge by Caerleon and St. Julians, and after paſſing by the town of Newport re-appears to the ſouth, and flowing in a ſerpentine courſe through the level plain of Wentloog, falls into the Briſtol Channel.

In my way from Penhow to Newport, I ſtopped at Chriſtchurch, which from its commanding ſituation and curious ſepulchre, attracts the notice of the antiquary and touriſt. It ſtands cloſe to the high road on the brow of the eminence overhanging Caerleon, and between the two roads that deſcend to the bridge.

The

The church is a large building of rubble ſtone plaiſtered, with a high ſquare tower, and ſeems to have been built at different times, and frequently repaired. All the doors and windows are gothic, excepting the doorway of the ſouthern entrance, which is half concealed by a gothic porch. It is formed by a circular arch, with low columns and hatched mouldings, ſimilar to the Saxon and Norman ſtyle of architecture. The inſide conſiſts of a nave and two aiſles, ſeparated by elegant gothic arches, with a croſs aiſle, and a chancel, once cloſed by a gothic ſcreen, much admired for the richneſs of the workmanſhip, and of which a few traces ſtill remaining, excite regret for its deſtruction.

The church contains a curious ſepulchral ſtone, on which are carved two rude whole length figures of a man and woman, with their arms folded, ſtanding on each ſide of a croſs. The inſcription on the border is in Gothic characters, and though in ſome parts almoſt illegible, ſhews it to be the tomb of a man and his wife who died in the fourteenth century*. A ſuperſtitious belief prevails among the lower claſs of people in theſe parts, that ſick children who touch this ſtone on the eve of the aſcenſion, are miraculouſly cured. At that time, the children who are thus expoſed, remain during the whole night in contact with ſome part of the ſtone. Mr. Strange, who has given in the Archæologia † a fac ſimile, relates, that in 1770, not leſs than ſixteen were laid on it. But the cuſtom is gradually falling into diſuſe, and the clerk informed me that only ſix or ſeven now make their appearance.

Near the church is a public houſe, built with oblong pieces of hewn ſtone, which were not improbably the facings of Roman edifices. It bears the appearance of a religious houſe, and was undoubtedly the ancient manſe; for even now the vicar has a right to a room, to which there was an entry through a gothic arched doorway from the church yard.

Chriſtchurch was a vicarage in the patronage of Goldcliff priory, and is now in the gift of Eton college.

From

* Hic jacent Johannes et Elizabetha uxor ejus qui obierunt anno domini M,CCC,LXXVI, quorum animabus miſeretur Deus. Amen.

† Vol. 5, p. 75.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

CHRIST CHURCH.

Published March 1.1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

MALPAS CHURCH.

Published March 1. 1800. by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

From Chriſtchurch I made an excurſion to Goldcliff, in the level of Caldecot. In the route I paſſed Lanwern, the ſeat of Sir Robert Saluſbury, baronet, member of parliament for the town of Brecon. The eſtate formerly belonged to the ancient family of Welſh, and came by purchaſe into the poſſeſſion of the Vans, who had long reſided at Coldra houſe near Chriſtchurch. From the authority of Griffith Hiraethog, a bard and genealogiſt of the ſixteenth century, the original name of the family was de Anne, and Cornwall the place of their reſidence. In the reign of Edward the third, Robert de Anne ſettled in Glamorganſhire. His deſcendant, Thomas Vanne, married Joan daughter of John Morgan of Wentloog, and was ſeated at Marſhfield, in the reign of Elizabeth. His poſterity appear to have been perſons of property and conſequence, as they intermarried with the families of Kemeys, Morgan, and Williams, and ſeveral of them were ſheriffs for the county of Monmouth. Towards the middle of the laſt century, they were eſtabliſhed at Coldra houſe, and removed to Lanwern about the beginning of the preſent. Charles Van, eſq. the late proprietor, died in 1778, and left the eſtate and houſe of Lanwern to his eldeſt daughter Katherine, who eſpouſed Sir Robert Saluſbury.

Lanwern houſe was built by Charles Van, eſq; the grandfather of lady Saluſbury. It ſtands on a gentle eminence, overlooking on one ſide the uniform level of Caldecot, and on the other a ſucceſſion of hill and dale, wildly mantled with underwood and foreſts.

PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF VAN

EDMUND VANNE = JANE, dr. of Sir THOMAS BOWLES of Penhow.

- William Vanne, m. Catherine, dr. of Sir George Matthews.
- Thomas Vanne = Joan, dr. of John Morgan of Wentloog, of Marſhfield.
  - Lewis Vanne = Sciſſil, dr. of John Kemeys of Cefn Mabley.
    - Thomas Vanne, Sheriff, 12 J. 1 = Fælix, dr. of John Arne, or Arney.
      - Lewis Vanne, Sheriff, 9 Ch. 1. = ---------- dr. of Rowland Williams of Langibby.
        - Charles Van, d. 1704 = Blanch, dr. of Thomas Morgan of Machen.
          - Thomas Van, d. 1755 = Eliſabeth Sanſom of Briſtol.
            - Charles Van, d. 1778 = Katherine, dr. of General Morgan of Tredegar.
              - Thomas Van, d. 1794.
              - Katherine = Sir Robert Saluſbury, Bart.

I am indebted to Sir Robert Saluſbury for theſe communications. See alſo the Cambrian Regiſter.

A little beyond Lanwern, I entered into the low diſtrict which is ſometimes called The Moors, and ſometimes Caldecot Level. It was once entirely overflowed by the ſea, but has been drained and brought into a ſtate of high cultivation. I rode for a conſiderable way along the ſide of a ſtrait drain, which is called Monk-ditch, and came to Goldcliff, towards the north-weſtern extremity of the level.

Goldcliff is a peninſulated rocky hill, about three quarters of a mile in circumference, riſing abruptly on one ſide from the ſhore, and on the other gradually terminating in the plain: the part towards the ſea is a perpendicular cliff of limeſtone, about ſixty feet in height. This eminence is remarkable, becauſe no other hill riſes in the level between Caldecot and Newport, and becauſe it is the only natural barrier to the depredations of the ſea, in an extent of ſixteen miles.

Giraldus Cambrenſis derives its name from the gold colour which the ſtones reflect from the rays of the ſun. Strange ſays, "It conſiſts of many ſtrata of "limeſtone, diſpoſed nearly in a horizontal direction, and parallel to each other; "immediately under which is ſeen a bed of a hard reddiſh brown grit or ſand-"ſtone, full of yellow micæ, and which forms in appearance the baſe of the "cliff. A conſiderable part of this bed continues from under the limeſtone "rock along the ſhore, and the reflection of the rays of the ſun, from its glitter-"ing micaceous ſurface, produces the effect mentioned by Gyraldus, and which "the neighbouring peaſants, even at preſent, conſider as probable ſigns of a gold "mine. From hence the name given to this remarkable headland ſeems to "derive its origin, in the ſame manner, as I imagine, the Mont D'or or Golden "Mountain, near Lyons in France, and another of the ſame name a few leagues "from Clermont, in the province of Auvergne, have been named, from the glit-"tering micæ obſervable in an ordinary ſort of granite of which theſe mountains "are formed."

The ancient priory was ſituated on the brow of this ſingular cliff; and its hiſtory is thus traced by Tanner: "Robert de Chandos, A. D. 1113, "founded the church of St. Mary Magdalene here, endowed it with ſeveral "lands and poſſeſſions; and then, by the perſuaſion of K. Henry I. gave it to

"the

"the abbey of Bec in Normandy, whence was to be ſent hither a prior and "twelve black monks. After the ſuppreſſion of alien priories, Henry Beau- "champ, duke of Warwick, obtained of K. Henry VI. the patronage of this "priory, and leave to annex the ſame to the abbey of Tewkeſbury; which "being accordingly done, it was made a cell to that monaſtery, A. D. 1442, "but three years after the Welſhmen drove away hence the Tewkeſbury prior "and monks, who ſettled again here A. D. 1446. However, this priory was "granted, 29 Hen. VI. to Eaton College; to Tewkeſbury again, 1 Ed. IV. "to Eaton again, 7 Ed. IV. which ſtill hath it; and in the valuation of that "college, 26 Hen. VIII. this priory is rated at £. 144. 8s. 1d. per annum*."

The ſite of this once flouriſhing priory is now occupied by a farm houſe and a barn, which is placed on the higheſt part of the cliff. The only veſtiges of the ancient ſtructure are, a gothic doorway, and ſome ſtone walls which form part of the barn.

The preſent deſolated ſtate of Goldcliff, and of the environs, is very different from its former ſituation before the diſſolution of the priory. It is by no means an improbable ſuppoſition, that the draining of Caldecot Level, and the conſtruction of the ſea walls, was owing to the exertions of the monks; a proof of which may be drawn from the name of Monk-ditch, ſtill given to the principal drain.

Although the remains of Goldcliff priory furniſh no object of curioſity to the traveller; yet he may be gratified with a view of the ſea walls, that ſtretch along the ſhore for the ſpace of ſeveral miles, and preſerve the contiguous level from inundation. Theſe dikes or walls extend from Caldecot almoſt the whole way to Goldcliff; they were formerly mounds of earth, but being ſubject to frequent dilapidation, and conſequently incurring the expence of continual repairs, have been recently conſtructed with ſtone. Theſe extenſive dikes are kept in repair by the contributions of the proprietors of Caldecot Level, according to their reſpective proportions. The laws by which the expence is regulated, are ſimilar to the ordinances of Henry de Bathe, a famous juſtice itinerant, who in the reign of Henry the third was commiſſioned to inquire into, and regulate the proportions

*Notitia Monaſtica, art. Monmouthſhire.

to be paid by the proprietors of Romney Marſh, in Kent*, towards the walls and banks. From theſe ordinances, the whole realm of England take directions in relation to the commiſſioners of the ſewers, and to the jurors for regulating the expence of ſecuring, rearing, and maintaining theſe artificial bounds to the ravages of the ſea.

The Anglo Normans ſeem to have eſtabliſhed themſelves in Caldecot Level at an early period; the names of the principal places, and the language of the inhabitants are Engliſh.

* Halſted's Kent, vol. 3. article Romney Marſh. See chapter on Wentloog Level for the commiſſion of the ſewers.

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne scalp.t

CHAPTER 7.

Newport.—Bridge.—Situation.—Population.—Commerce.—Canal.—Caſtle.—Hiſtory. Proprietors.—Church of St. Woolos.—Anecdote on the conſtruction of the Tower.—Account of St. Woolos.—Caerau.—Ancient Religious Eſtabliſhments.

FROM Goldcliff I returned to Chriſtchurch, and continuing along the high road to Newport, deſcended into the plain, and croſſed the Uſk, over a new ſtone bridge of five arches, which has been lately conſtructed at the expence of the county, by Mr. David Edwards, ſon of the celebrated architect who conſtructed Pont i ty Pridd, near Caerphilly, in Glamorganſhire. The ſpan of the center arch is ſeventy feet, of the two adjoining ſixty-two, and of the two outward fifty-five. In its preſent unfiniſhed ſtate, the ſweep of the arches, unincumbered with a parapet, ſeems uncommonly light and bold. This elegant but temporary view is exhibited in the annexed engraving.

Before the erection of this ſtructure, the only communication was by means of a timber bridge, ſimilar to thoſe of Chepſtow and Caerleon, which was ill calculated to reſiſt the height of the tide and the rapidity of the ſtream.

The uſual height of the tide is thirty-ſix feet, but on ſome occaſions it has riſen to forty-two.

Newport, anciently called in Welſh Caſtell Newydd, or New Caſtle, is the capital of the hundred of Wentloog; its name is probably a mark of diſtinction from Caerleon, which, in early times, was the old port and the old caſtle.

Leland mentions Newport as a "Toun yn ruine" in the reign of Henry the eighth. Churchyard, whoſe deſcriptions, though couched in doggrel metre, I have always found exact, gives a truer picture of the town, which in almoſt every inſtance is applicable to its preſent appearance *.

It

* "A towne nere this, that buylt is all a length,
"Call'd Neawport now, there is full fayre to viewe;
"Which ſeate doth ſtand, for profite more than ſtrength,
"A right ſtrong bridge, is there of timber newe.

"A river

It is a long, narrow, and ſtraggling town, built partly in a flat on the banks of the Uſk, and partly on a declivity. The ſtreets are dirty and ill paved; the houſes in general wear a gloomy appearance. By a charter, dated in the twenty-firſt year of the reign of king James the firſt, confirming former grants, it is incorporated, by the name of the mayor, aldermen, and burgeſſes of the borough of Newport, in the county of Monmouth. It is governed by a mayor and twelve aldermen, who are choſen from the burgeſſes, by the mayor and the majority of the aldermen: the election of the mayor is confirmed by the lord of the manor. An abſtract of this charter, communicated by Mr. William Morgan, town clerk, is inſerted in the Appendix.

Notwithſtanding its trade and ſituation, the population is very inconſiderable. It contains only 221 houſes and tenements, and 1087 ſouls.

Newport, in conjunction with Monmouth and Uſk, ſends one repreſentative to parliament. The right of voting is veſted in the burgeſſes, inhabitants of the town, who are elected by the lord of the manor, the mayor, and aldermen.

As Newport is the only port in the ſouth-weſtern part of Monmouthſhire, the inhabitants are principally ſupported by foreign, coaſting, and inland trade. Being a creek of Caerdiff, the returns to the cuſtom-houſe are made under the head of Caerdiff, and therefore it is difficult to diſcriminate the veſſels which frequent each port. The only account which I have been able to obtain from the cuſtom-houſe, ſtates, that in 1792 twenty-two ſhips were regiſtered in the port of Caerdiff, and in 1798 not more than thirty†.

The coaſting trade is very conſiderable, and is chiefly carried on with Briſtol, in ſloops from twelve to ſixty tons each. The exports are principally coal, which in 1798 was ſhipped at 12*s.* 6*d.* per chaldron, and pig iron, together with bar iron,

" A river runnes, full nere the caſtle wall:
" Nere church likewiſe, a mount behold you ſhall,
" Where ſea and land, to ſight ſo plaine appeeres,
" That there men ſee, a part of five fayre ſheires.
" As upward hye, aloft to mountain top,
" This market towne, is buylt in healthfull ſort;
" So downeward loe, is many a marchant's ſhop,
" And many ſayle, to Briſtowe from that port.
" Of auncient tyme, a citie hath it bin,
" And in thoſe daies, the caſtle hard to win:
" Which yet ſhewes fayre, and is repayrd a parte,
" As things decayd, muſt needes be helpt by arte.
Churchyard's Worthines of Wales. p. 50.

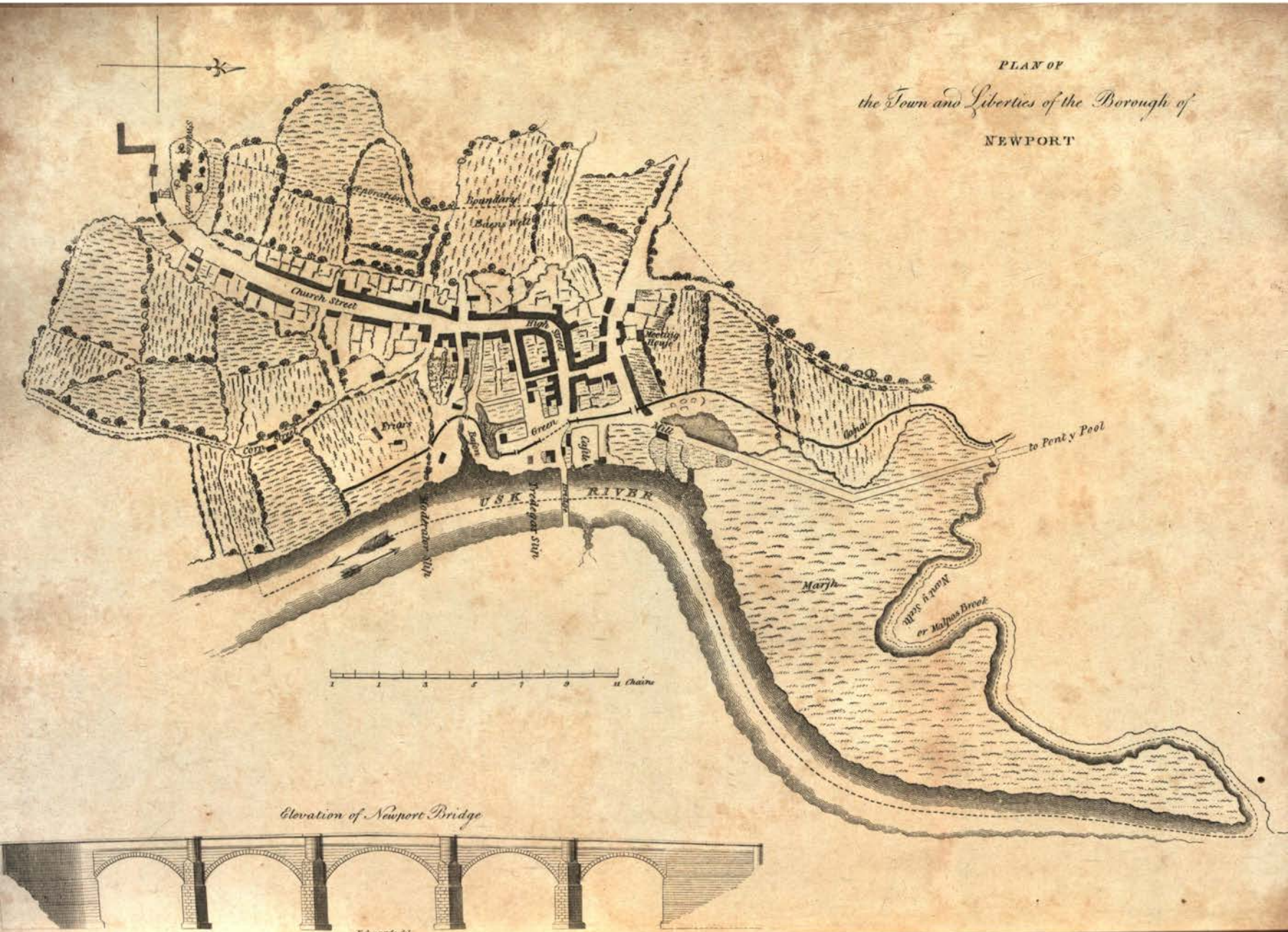
† Total number of Ships, with their tonnage and men, regiſtered at the port of Caerdiff:

	Ships.	Tons.	Men.
In 1792	22.	874.	76.
— 1798	30.	1076.	97.

PLAN OF

the Town and Liberties of the Borough of

NEWPORT



Elevation of Newport Bridge

Edwards del.

iron, bloomeries, and caſtings. The imports are ſhop goods, furniture, and a few other articles, ſent up the canal for the conſumption of the interior. The extent of this coaſting trade may be collected from an account of the veſſels, tonnage, and men, for five ſucceſſive years, which was communicated from the cuſtom-houſe, and is inſerted in the Appendix. During this period, the average amount of the tonnage inwards is 9,734, and outwards 12,994. It is a pleaſing ſatisfaction to add, that the war has had little influence on the coaſting trade; the tonnage inwards has been increaſed, and outwards little diminiſhed. The foreign trade likewiſe has been even augmented, for the tonnage regiſtered in the port of Caerdiff in 1798, exceeded that of 1792 nearly one fourth.

The home trade has been conſiderably improved by the canal of Monmouthſhire, which was begun in 1792, and finiſhed in 1798.

This canal conſiſts of two branches, which unite in the plain of Malpas. The firſt, or Crumlin branch, commences in the vale of the Ebwy, juſt above Crumlin bridge, and is carried from north to ſouth, along the riſing eminences parallel to the Ebwy, by Abercarn and Riſca, to a height called Cefn, where it runs ſouth-eaſt to Newport. The length of this branch is nearly 8 miles; the perpendicular fall of water 365 feet; and it is provided with 32 locks. The higheſt ground is between the Cefn and the junction of the two branches; within which ſpace of a mile and a half there are 20 locks.

The ſecond, or Pont y Pool branch, begins at Pont Newinydd, near Pont y Pool, and is eleven miles in length. The perpendicular fall of water is 447 feet, and the number of locks 42; the average depth 3½ feet; the burden of the barges from 25 to 28 Tons *.

The principal commodities conveyed to Newport by this Canal, are pit coal, timber, and different ſorts of iron, but principally pig iron, from the numerous founderies in the weſtern mountains. The articles from Newport, are various kinds of ſhop goods, for the interior conſumption, furniture, and deals. A more particular account of theſe exports and imports will be found in a liſt communicated

* Since the opening of the canal, the coal trade to Bridgewater has been very great, and Newport now rivals the more weſtern ports in that market.

municated by Mr. Morgan Parry, agent for the canal, which is inſerted in the Appendix.

A new canal from Brecknock now forming, which is intended to join the Monmouthſhire canal near Pont y Pool, runs parallel to the right bank of the Uſk, from Brecknock to Lanfoiſt, above Abergavenny, and from thence above Lanellen and Lanover, by Mamhilad to Pont y Mocl. It is nearly finiſhed as far as the Clyda Forge, on the frontiers of Monmouthſhire. But the enormous expence of carrying it through a mountainous diſtrict, in which the excavations muſt be made to a great depth, renders it uncertain whether it will ever reach the place of its original deſtination.

Newport was once ſurrounded by walls, though no veſtiges at preſent remain. Three gates are mentioned by Leland * as exiſting in his time, of which the ſite of the eaſtern and weſtern may ſtill be traced. The pivots belonging to the hinges of the eaſt gate, near the bridge, are diſcernible in the walls. The weſtern, which was uſed as the town priſon, has been lately taken down; it was an ancient ſtructure in the gothic ſtyle, built of red grit ſtone, with a ſhield charged with a chevron on each façade †.

Near this gate, in the high ſtreet, is an old ſpacious building, with an ornamented front, and a coat of arms, carved in ſtone, over the door. This was called the murenger's houſe, an officer of great antiquity in fortified towns, who was appointed to ſuperintend the walls, and to collect a toll for the purpoſe of keeping them in repair. It appears, however, that as early as the reign of Edward the ſecond, the burgeſſes were exempted from this murage or wall toll ‡.

The apartments, which are converted into magazines, were ſpacious, and not inelegant for the early age in which the houſe was conſtructed. The windows are neat, and there are ſeveral gothic doorways and chimney-pieces.

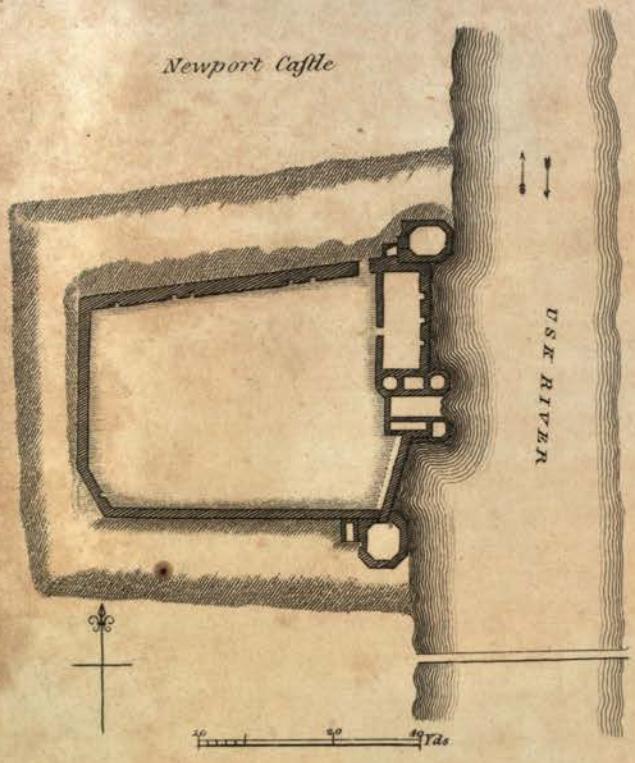
The

* "Ther is a great ſtone gate by the bridge, at the "eſte ende of the toun, another yn the midle of "the toun, as in the high ſtrete to paſſe thorough, "and the 3 at the weſt end of the toune, and hard "without it is the paroche church." Leland's Itin. vol. 4. fol. 5%.

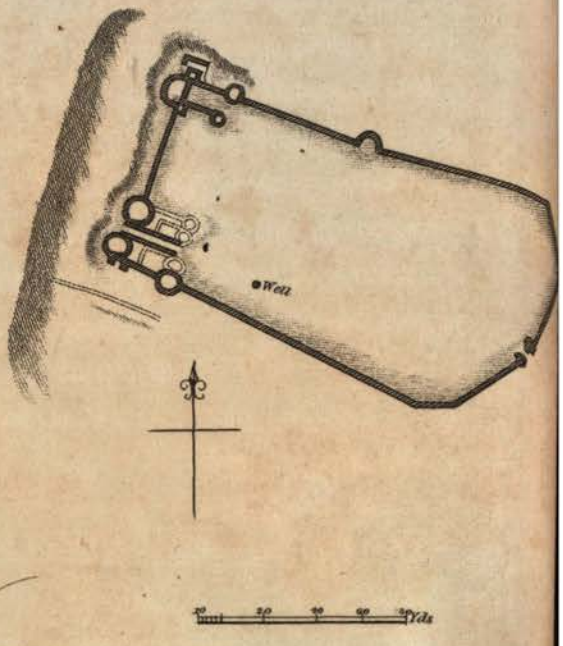
† Theſe appear to be the arms of Ralph Stafford, who in virtue of his marriage with Margaret, daughter and heireſs of Hugh de Audeley, was Lord of Newport, who bore or, a chevron gules. Edmonſon's Heraldry, art. Chevron.

‡ Queen Elizabeth, in the 27th year of her reign, confirmed this and other exemptions granted by her predeceſſors. Deed communicated by Mr. Evans.

Newport Caſtle



Langibby Caſtle



Uſk Caſtle

Abergavenny Caſtle

The ſhell of the caſtle ſtands near the bridge, on the right bank of the Uſk; it is a maſſive ſtructure, but of ſmall dimenſions and ſimple form. The figure is nearly a right-angled parallelogram; it is built of rubble, but coigned with hewn ſtones.

In the middle of the ſide towards the water is a ſquare tower, which ſeems to have been the keep or citadel, flanked with ſmall turrets, and containing the remains of a ſpacious apartment called the ſtate room, with a vaulted ſtone roof. Underneath is a ſally-port leading to the river, with a beautiful gothic arch, once defended by a portcullis, the groove of which is ſtill viſible. At each extremity of this ſide are octagon towers, one of which, though much mutilated, is inhabited. To the left of the middle tower are the remains of the baronial hall, with a large fire-place; the windows are of the gothic ſpecies, and richly decorated. Evident veſtiges of numerous apartments are ſeen in the area, and ſeveral chimneys appear in the ſide walls.

On the firſt examination of the caſtle, I concluded with Groſe* that it was conſtructed ſolely for the purpoſe of defending the paſſage acroſs the river; becauſe on the ſide of the water it is provided with three ſtrong towers, but towards the town has only a common wall, without flanks or defences. This miſtake was corrected by my friend Mr. Evans: the caſtle was undoubtedly ſtrengthened with a deep moat, which has been recently filled with the earth from the excavation of the canal, and by ſtrong walls on the ſide of the town. There is likewiſe a conſiderable plot of ground, formerly called the Caſtle Green, but now converted into wharfs, which appears to have been joined to the fortreſs by means of a drawbridge.

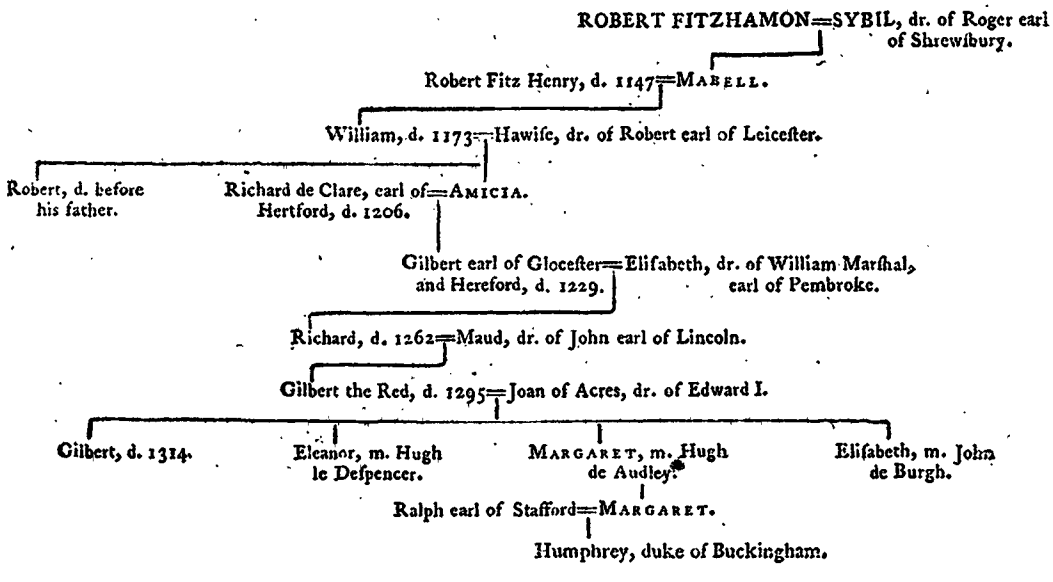
The ſtyle of the architecture teſtifies that the preſent building is not ſo old as the conqueſt; for the arches of the doors and windows are pointed; it muſt, therefore, have been conſtructed during the Anglo-Norman period, when pointed arches were in common uſe.

The hiſtory of the caſtle corroborates this opinion. Newport † was originally included

* Groſe's Antiquities.

† Some authors have ſtrangely confounded Newport in Pembrokeſhire with Newport in Monmouthſhire; and aſſert that the caſtle was built by Martin of Tyrome, lord of Kemeys, to whom William the conqueror alſo gave the cuſtody of the place. But

included within the lordſhip of Glamorgan, which compriſed the country between the rivers Uſk and Neath. In the reign of William Rufus, Robert Fitzhamon conquered Glamorgan from Jeſtin ap Gwrgan, and fixed his reſidence at Caerdiff. Being mortally wounded at the ſiege of Faleiſe in Normandy, he died in 1107 without iſſue male; and Maud his eldeſt daughter, conveyed Newport with his other poſſeſſions to her huſband Robert earl of Gloceſter and Briſtol, natural ſon of Henry the firſt. He was equally eminent as a ſoldier and ſcholar; he was the moſt valiant captain of his time, and contributed by his proweſs in arms to place his nephew Henry the ſecond on the throne of England. He was the greateſt ſupporter of literature of the age in which he flouriſhed: he patronized William of Malmeſbury, and to him Geoffrey of


ROBERT FITZHAMON=SYBIL, dr. of Roger earl of Shrewſbury.
Robert Fitz Henry, d. 1147=MABELL.
William, d. 1173=Hawiſe, dr. of Robert earl of Leiceſter.
Robert, d. before his father.
Richard de Clare, earl of Hertford, d. 1206.=AMICIA.
Gilbert earl of Gloceſter and Hereford, d. 1229.=Eliſabeth, dr. of William Marſhal, earl of Pembroke.
Richard, d. 1262=Maud, dr. of John earl of Lincoln.
Gilbert the Red, d. 1295=Joan of Acres, dr. of Edward I.
Gilbert, d. 1314.
Eleanor, m. Hugh le Deſpencer.
MARGARET, m. Hugh de Audley.
Eliſabeth, m. John de Burgh.
Ralph earl of Stafford=MARGARET.
Humphrey, duke of Buckingham.

For his deſcendants, ſee p. 21.

But the lord of Kemeys here alluded to was the conqueror of Kemeys in Pembrokeſhire; and the town, Aber Never, which likewiſe received from the Normans the name of Newport. See Leland, Syllabus Antiquarum Dictionum, art. Neveria et Novum Caſtellum. Itin. vol. 9. Lamparde's Dictionary, art. Newport. Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, p. 146. See alſo Cambrian Regiſter, for an accurate genealogy of the immediate deſcendants of Martin of Tyrome, vol. 2. p. 125.

of Monmouth dedicated his hiſtory. He was likewiſe well ſkilled in military architecture; he built the caſtle of Briſtol, and conſiderably enlarged that of Caerdiff. Aware of the important ſituation of Newport, he probably conſtructed the caſtle to preſerve his dominions from the attacks of the Welſh, who frequently wreſted Caerleon from the Anglo-Normans. His ſon William ſucceeded to his honours and lands; and it is certain, from an anecdote recorded by Caradoc, that a caſtle at Newport exiſted in his time, and was ſtrongly garriſoned; juſt before his death, in 1173, ſome of his troops, who were ſtationed in the caſtle, baſely ſlew Owen ap Caradoc, when he was going to treat with king Henry, unarmed, and almoſt unattended, and under the faith of a ſafe conduct. Jorwerth ap Owen his father, in revenge for this cruel and treacherous murder, carried fire and ſword to the gates of Hereford and Gloceſter *.

The earl of Gloceſter dying in 1173, without male iſſue, the next poſſeſſor of Newport caſtle was Richard de Clare, earl of Hertford, by a marriage with his ſecond daughter Amicia. On the death of their ſon Gilbert, ſurnamed the Red, in 1313, his great property was divided among his three ſiſters; Eleanor, the wife of Hugh le Deſpenſer the younger, minion of Edward the ſecond, Margaret, who married Hugh de Audley, and Eliſabeth, who eſpouſed John de Burgh, ſon to Richard earl of Ulſter.

Margaret obtained the caſtle and town of Newport, but was compelled to cede them to Hugh le Deſpenſer, who procured from the king a charter of privileges for the burgeſſes and inhabitants of his town of Newport.

On the fall of Deſpenſer, Newport was reſtored to Hugh de Audley, and conveyed by Margaret, his only daughter and heir, to her huſband Ralph earl of Stafford, who performed great military ſervices during the warlike reign of Edward the third, and was in high favour with the king. On the invaſion of France, in 1346, he greatly diſtinguiſhed himſelf; he bravely defended Aiguilon, beſieged by John, dauphin of France, and had an eminent command at the celebrated battle of Creſſy, in the van of the army, under the black prince. For his

* Powell's Hiſtory of Wales, p. 200.

his great ſervices he was created earl of Hereford, and the king's lieutenant and captain general of the duchy of Aquitain, " with ſpecial commiſſion to treat with any perſons upon terms of aid to the king, and mutual aſſiſtance from him." In this ſervice ſixty men with lances were impreſſed out of his lordſhips of *Newport* and Netherwent in the marches of Wales.

Newport town and caſtle, together with the lordſhip of Wentloog, continued in the poſſeſſion of his family until the execution and attainder of his fourth deſcendant, Edward, third duke of Buckingham; when the caſtle and lordſhip were ſeized by Henry the eighth *. The caſtle was afterwards ſold or granted to the Herberts of St. Julian's, and formed part of the property which lord Herbert of Cherbury obtained by his marriage with Mary, only daughter and heireſs of ſir William Herbert. It came in the ſame manner as the eſtate of St. Julian's to the late earl of Powis, and was ſold to Charles Van, eſq. of Lanwern. Mr. Van granted, by a long leaſe, the tower next to the bridge to the Rev. Mr. Burgh, whoſe father had purchaſed the manor of Newport, and exchanged the remainder of the caſtle with William Kemeys, eſq. of Mayndee, the preſent proprietor. The above mentioned tower, and the adjacent parts between it and the bridge, together with the manor of Newport, deſcended to the daughter of Mr. Burgh, and firſt wife of Thomas Johnes, eſq. member of parliament for Cardiganſhire, from whom they have been recently purchaſed by the marquis of Worceſter.

The church of St. Woolos, which is the only place for the eſtabliſhed worſhip in Newport, ſtands on the outſkirts of the town, on a gentle riſe, commanding an extenſive view, which is much admired by travellers. The original ſtructure is the preſent nave, and was erected either in the Anglo Saxon or Norman æra; but has ſince undergone many alterations and additions. The church conſiſts of a ſquare tower or belfry; a ſmall chapel dedicated to St. Mary, which is now uſed as a burial place; a nave, with two aiſles, and a chancel. The preſent entrance is on the ſouth, through a gothic porch; but

* See Dugdale's Baronage, art. Fitzhamon, Gloceſter, Clare, Audley, Stafford. Leland's Itinerary, vol. 5. fol. 6. Gough's Camden.

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t W.m Byrne sculp.t

INSIDE VIEW OF THE CHURCH OF S.t WOLLOS AT NEWPORT.

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but the weſtern doorway, leading from St. Mary's chapel into the church, was originally the grand entrance. It is formed by a ſemicircular arch, richly ornamented with hatched mouldings, and repoſing on low columns, with rude capitals of foliage: it has a Saxon character. In the inſide of the church the doors and windows are gothic, of different ages; but the nave is ſeparated on each ſide from the aiſles, by five circular arches *, reſting on four maſſive columns, and two pentagon half columns at each extremity, which, from their ſtructure and appearance, are evidently Saxon or Norman. A few remains of painted glaſs are ſtill viſible in ſome of the windows.

In the church are three ancient monuments much dilapidated. One in the nave, of alabaſter, conſiſts of two headleſs figures of a man in armour and a woman. The two others are in the chancel; one of theſe, on the floor, is a recumbent effigies of a woman in ſtone, probably as old as the fourteenth century, without an inſcription; the other is a magnificent ſepulchre in carved ſtone, with a rich arched canopy, ſupported by fluted ionic pillars, under which are the mutilated remains of the effigies of a man in armour, repoſing on a helmet, with a ruff. From the coſtume and ſtyle of the ornaments it appears to have been conſtructed in the ſixteenth century; but as there is no inſcription or tradition extant, the perſon here buried is unknown.

Among the modern ſepulchral tablets are thoſe of the three laſt vicars:

Francis Pettinghall, who died 1726,
Samuel Butcher, - - - 1753, and
Thomas Mills Hoare, - - 1783.

There is likewiſe a cenotaph erected to the memory of Mr. Pratt, one of the principal promoters of the great iron works at Blaenafon †.

The

* One gothic arch is at the north-eaſtern extremity of the colonnade next the chancel, which is evidently poſterior to the original colonnade.

† This Cenotaph
is
Sacred to the Memory
of
Benjamin Pratt, Eſq.
of
Great Whitley, in Worceſterſhire,
who died at Blaenafon,
in this County,
May 24th, 1794,
aged 52 Years;
and lies interred at Chadſley

in

The tower was built by Henry the third, on the following occaſion. Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloceſter, lord of Glamorgan, and poſſeſſor of Newport caſtle, one of the moſt powerful barons in the kingdom, leagued with Simon Montfort, earl of Leiceſter, againſt Henry the third; and by means of his great connections and intereſt, brought a powerful acceſſion of ſtrength to the opponents of the king. He was highly inſtrumental in gaining the battle of Lewes, which terminated in the immediate capture of Henry, in the ſubſequent ſurrender of prince Edward, and in the eſtabliſhment of the baronial confederacy.

But the earl of Gloceſter, diſſatisfied with the ambitious proceedings of Leiceſter, ſeceded from his party; and having retired for ſafety to his eſtates on the borders of Wales, contrived the eſcape of prince Edward, and prepared to join him with a conſiderable army. Meanwhile Leiceſter marched from Hereford to Monmouth; but being oppoſed by the militia, he was compelled to retreat to Uſk, a place belonging to the earl of Gloceſter, which he took; being driven from thence by Gloceſter, he proceeded to Newport, and occupying the caſtle, ſent for veſſels to convey him and his army to Briſtol. Gloceſter receiving information of this deſign, placed three gallies at the mouth of the Uſk, which ſunk or diſperſed the boats, and marching with prince Edward to the bridge, ſucceeded in driving back Leiceſter's troops, who in retreating ſet fire to the bridge, and afterwards retired to Hereford. The victory gained by prince Edward and Gloceſter over the rebels at Eveſham, the death of Leiceſter, with the delivery of the king from captivity, diſſolved the confederacy of the barons, and reſtored the royal authority.

§

in Worceſterſhire.
A Native of this Country,
though removed from it
in early Life,
he cheriſhed its Remembrance
with lively Regard,
and his laſt Years were ſucceſsfully
employed
in contributing to its Proſperity.
He was principally concerned
in eſtabliſhing
the Iron Works at Blaenafon

Henry,

and its Vicinity,
and was a warm Promoter
of the Monmouthſhire Canal.
Soundneſs of Judgment,
Rectitude of Principle, and Urbanity of Manners,
eminently conſpired to form
in him
the Man of Buſineſs and the Gentleman.
He died with pious Fortitude,
which manifeſted in his laſt Moments
that he was at peace
with his God.

Henry, not unmindful of the loyal conduct of the inhabitants, and their vigorous oppoſition to the earl of Leiceſter, built the tower of the church, as a teſtimony of his gratitude. His ſtatue is placed in a niche in the weſtern front; but the head was ſtruck off by the ſoldiers of Cromwell.

St. Woolos, to whom the church is dedicated, is called in Welſh Gwnlliw, in latin Gunleus; his legend is thus related in the lives of the ſaints: "St. "Gunleus C. This ſaint, who was formerly honoured with great devotions in "Wales, was eldeſt ſon to a king of the Dimetians in South Wales. After "the death of his father, he divided the kingdom with ſix brothers, who ne- "verthelefs reſpected and obeyed him as if he had been their ſovereign. He "married Gladuſa daughter of Braghan, prince of that country, which is called "from him Brecknockſhire, and had by her St. Kenna, and the great St. Cadoc, "who afterwards founded the famous monaſtery of Llancarvan, near Cowbridge "in Glamorganſhire. Gunleus lived ſo as to have always in view the heavenly "kingdom, for which we are created by God. He retired wholly from the "world long before his death, and paſſed his time in a ſolitary little dwelling, "near a church which he had built. His cloathing was ſackcloth, his food "barley bread, upon which he uſually ſtrewed aſhes, and his drink was water. "Prayer and contemplation were his conſtant occupation, to which he roſe at "midnight, and he ſubſiſted by the labour of his hands; thus he lived many "years. Some days before his death he ſent for St. Dubritius and his ſon "St. Cadoc, and by their aſſiſtance, and the holy rites of the church, prepared "himſelf for his paſſage to eternity. He departed to our Lord toward the end "of the fifth century, and was glorified by miracles *."

Near the church was a barrow called Twyn Gwnlliw, or the tomb of St. Woolos; but which Harris in his account of the antiquities of Newport ſuppoſes to have been an *arx ſpeculatoria*, or watch tower, which the Romans always conſtructed near their camps. This opinion is in ſome meaſure corroborated by the veſtiges of ancient encampments in the vicinity of the church yard, and by the names of Cyningaer and Caerau, by which ſome neighbouring ſpots are diſtinguiſhed.

The

* Lives of the Fathers, principal Martyrs, and other principal Saints, vol. 3, p. 313.

The traveller who is fond of proſpects will aſcend the tower of the church; he will admire on one ſide the courſe of the Uſk, bending in the true line of beauty, and waſhing the caſtle and town of Newport, and on the other the rich levels of Caldecot and Wentloog, from Magor to the Rumney, the Briſtol channel, and the diſtant hills of Glocesterſhire and Somerſetſhire.

During my frequent viſits to Newport, I received great marks of attention and friendſhip from the Rev. Mr. Evans, vicar of St. Woolos, and paſſed much of my time at Caerau, the place of his reſidence, which is delightfully ſituated in the midſt of the fields, about a mile from the town, and not far from the high road to Baſſaleg. The view from the houſe is uncommonly pleaſing; it looks down upon the town of Newport and the winding Uſk, ſkirted by gentle and fertile eminences, and backed by a chain of hills; in the foreground the weſtern ſide of the tower of St. Woolos church forms an agreeable object. I ſcarcely made a ſingle excurſion in the vicinity of Newport, in which I was not accompanied by Mr. Evans, and derived the greateſt advantage from his knowledge of the Welſh tongue, local information, and hiſtorical acquaintance with the ancient ſtate of the country. I have, in another place, acknowledged the benefit which I received from his kind aſſiſtance and indefatigable exertions; but in deſcribing the environs of Newport, I could not avoid mentioning the ſequeſtered and hoſpitable retreat of my ingenious and much eſteemed friend.

Leland mentions a houſe of religion in Newport "by the quay beneth the bridge," and Tanner ſuppoſes that it was probably of friars preachers, becauſe ſuch a one was granted at the diſſolution to ſir Edward Carn *. The remains of this friary ſtill exiſt, near the banks of the Uſk, below the bridge. They conſiſt of ſeveral detached buildings containing comfortable apartments, and a ſpacious hall, with gothic windows, neatly finiſhed in free ſtone; the body of the church is dilapidated; but the northern tranſept is a ſmall and elegant ſpecimen of gothic architecture. It is now occupied by a cyder mill, and the preſs is placed in a ſmall receſs which was once a chapel, ſeparated from the tranſept by a bold and lofty arch. The gardens are encloſed within the original walls.

There

* Probably a miſtake for ſir Edward Morgan of Lantarnam, as the ſite ſtill belongs to his deſcendants.

There was another religious houſe for white friars, near the church of St. Woolos, on the left of the lower road leading to Tredegar; it ſtood on a gentle riſe overlooking the level of Wentloog, and commanding a beautiful view of the Uſk, haſtening to fall into the Severn. No veſtiges at preſent exiſt, and a private houſe occupies the original ſite, which in memorial of its ancient ſtate, is ſtill called the Friars.

The environs of Newport are delightful, and compenſate for its gloomy appearance. I was particularly ſtruck with the beauty of the ſcenery in a meadow to the north-weſt of the town. As I took my evening walks on the banks of the river towards the bridge, I was never ſatiated with admiring the rapid and ſilvery Uſk, the ponderous remains of the ancient caſtle, the bold projection of the bridge, and the elegant tower of St. Woolos church crowning the ſummit which riſes above the town. This meadow is ſurrounded by a circular range of gentle hills, richly clothed with an intermixture of wood and paſture; and at a diſtance is ſeen the ſtrait ridge of mountains, which ſtretch from Riſca towards Pont y Pool, and preſent a beautiful appearance when purpled with the rays of the ſetting ſun.

ST WOOLOS CHURCH

CHAPTER 8.

Excurſions from Newport to the South-weſtern Boundaries of Monmouthſhire.—Upper Road to Caerdiff.—Encampment of the Gaer.—Baſſaleg.—Craeg y Saeſſon.—New Park Encampment.—Lanvihangel Vedw.—Kevenmably.—St. Melons.—Rumney.—Lower Road from Caerdiff to Newport.—Caſtleton.—Tredegar.—Morgan Family.—Machen Place and Church.—Bedwas.

I MADE ſeveral excurſions to the ſouth-weſtern boundaries of Monmouthſhire, in the courſe of which I examined three old encampments contiguous to the road, and viſited the ſeats of the Morgan family, juſtly eſteemed one of the moſt ancient and illuſtrious of the county.

Quitting Caerau, in company with Mr. Evans, we followed the upper road to Caerdiff, at the ſecond mile-ſtone entered the old park of Tredegar, and gently aſcended to the Gaer, an ancient encampment, on the brow of the eminence above the river Ebwy. The remains are perfect, and as they are wholly free from underwood, may be traced without difficulty. The annexed plan will exhibit the form, which though not exactly ſquare or oblong, ſeems to bear a Roman character, as it reſembles the ſhape of the Gaer near Brecknock, and ſome other encampments exhibited in Stukely's Itinerary, which are allowed to be Roman.

Returning into the high road, we croſſed the Ebwy, which is here a mountain torrent, over a ſtone bridge, to Baſſaleg, a ſmall village, and the parochial church of Tredegar. According to Tanner, Baſſaleg was formerly a Benedictine priory of black monks, a cell of the abbey of Glaſtonbury, to which the church was given by Robert de Haye and Gundreda his wife, between 1101 and 1120. This cell, which was dedicated to St. Baſil, ſeems to have gone to decay before the general diſſolution of religious houſes: "The monks," he obſerves, "were probably

"ſoon

R. H. del.ᵗ W. B. direx.ᵗ

BASSALEG.

R. H. del.ᵗ W. B. direx.ᵗ

MACHEN PLACE.

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" ſoon recalled to Glaſtonbury, for abbot Michael, who attained that dignity " in 1235, let to farm the church of Baſſelech, which ſeems a convincing proof " that there were no longer any of their own convent reſident here."

No remains of the ancient priory exiſt at Baſſaleg; there is, however, a ruined building at the diſtance of about a mile, in the midſt of a deep ſequeſtered foreſt, not far from the Rumney, on the confines of Machen pariſh, which is by ſome ſuppoſed to be part of the original cell. The name of this foreſt, ſtill called Coed y Mynachty, or the Wood of the Monaſtery, ſeems to confirm this opinion. The preſent church is a neat gothic building, and either belonged to the cell, or was named from it, as it is likewiſe dedicated to St. Baſil, from which the village takes its name. A few years ago it was repaired, and ſo much altered, that the inſide bears no traces of the original ſtyle.

It appears from the ſepulchral inſcriptions, that the collateral branches of the Morgan family, ſeated at Gwern y Cleppa and Rogeſton caſtle, were buried in this church. Jane, eldeſt ſiſter and heireſs of the late John Morgan, eſq. of Tredegar, the wife of ſir Charles Gold Morgan, is interred in a cemetery lately erected by her huſband, who has transferred the burial place of the Tredegar family from Machen to this church.

A ſmall gothic edifice, now a ſchool-room, ſtands a few paces from the ſouth ſide of the church, and was probably an ancient chapel.

The point of view from which the church and chapel are ſeen to the greateſt advantage, is on the oppoſite ſide of the bridge in Tredegar park, where the bridge, the chapel, and the embattled tower of the church, grouped in a pleaſing manner, and reflected in the torrent beneath, have an agreeable and ſingular effect.

About a mile from Baſſaleg, and a quarter of a mile from the high road, is Craeg y Saeſſon, a circular encampment on the brow of a hill, thickly overgrown with trees and coppice, and commanding, through the openings of the wood, a beautiful perſpective of the Briſtol channel. It is ſuppoſed, from the name of Craeg y Saeſſon, or the Saxon fortreſs, that this place was a Saxon encampment; but thoſe who maintain this opinion, are wholly unacquainted with the cuſtoms and language of the Welſh. For my intelligent companion informed me, that by

long habit, derived from the inveteracy of their anceſtors againſt the Saxons, the Welſh range all foreigners indiſcriminately under the appellation of Saxons; a cuſtom which has likewiſe miſled many writers to affirm that the Saxon dominion was extended farther in theſe parts than is warranted by hiſtory. Between the encampment and the road, we paſſed through a pleaſant meadow, called Maes Arthur, or the field of Arthur; which, according to uncertain tradition, derived its appellation from that renowned hero of Britiſh fable.

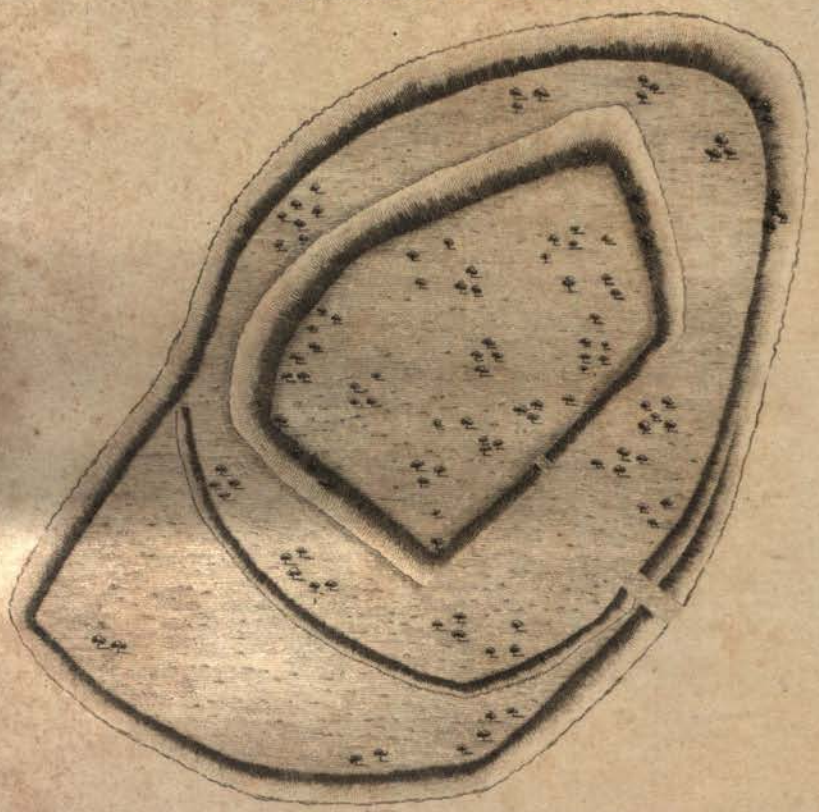
About a mile farther, cloſe to the high road on the left, is a ſimilar encampment, on the level ſummit of an eminence called Pen y Park Newydd, or the head of the New Park, a circular entrenchment, with a ſingle foſs, and rampart of earth. Several large ſtones are ſcattered in and near the foſs, which appear to have formed part of the walls: the entrance is ſouth-weſt by ſouth*.

This ſpot commands a ſuperb view: on the eaſt the high and woody ridge crowned by the Pencamawr, ſtretches along the midland parts of Monmouthſhire, and terminates in the bare tops of the Treleg hills; to the north-eaſt is a lower chain of fertile eminences, backed by the Graeg and Garway, near the frontiers of Herefordſhire. The view towards the north is diſtinguiſhed by the great Skyrrid, towering like the point of a volcano; the long range of the Mynydd Maen, with Twyn Barlwm, riſing like a vaſt excreſcence on its ſouthern extremity. Nearly north is Mynydd Machen, under which expands the beautiful vale of Machen, ſprinkled with white cottages; to the north-weſt the caſtellated manſion and rich groves of Ruperra, connected with the chain of hills in Glamorganſhire. The view to the ſouth-weſt is cloſed by the low and narrow promontory of Pen Arth, and the mouth of the Taaf crowded with ſhipping. Southwards extend the levels of Caldecot and Wentloog, watered by the Uſk, and bounded by the Briſtol Channel, with the flat and ſteep Holms, appearing like points in a vaſt expanſe of water.

The beauty of this proſpect was heightened by the ſerenity of the weather and the

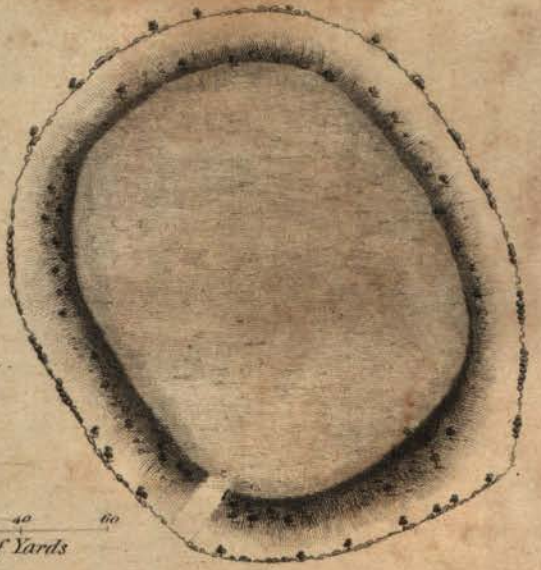
* For the ſhape and dimenſions of this and the two other encampments, ſee the plate which accompanies this chapter.

ENCAMPMENT IN TREDEGAR PARK



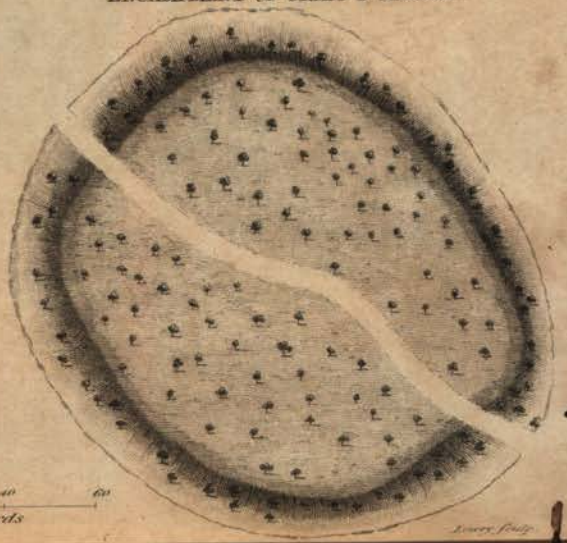
20 40 60 80 100
Yards

ENCAMPMENT ON NEW-PARK



20 40 60
Scale of Yards

ENCAMPMENT OF CRAIG-Y-SAESON



20 40 60
Scale of Yards

Surveyed & Delin.d by Tho.s Morrice 1790.

Lowry sculp.

the clearneſs of the atmoſphere; and in deſcending towards the plain, amid this diverſified ſcenery, we could not ſuppreſs our admiration and delight.

At the half-way houſe between Newport and Caerdiff, we turned to the right, and paſſing the church of Lanvihangel Vedw, a handſome gothic edifice, reached the frontiers. The counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan are ſeparated by the Rumney, over which is a ſtone bridge, leading to Kevenmably. On the eaſtern bank of the river is an old cottage, called Begam, pleaſantly ſituated, ſaid to be the ſite of the ancient manſion inhabited by the Kemeys family, before their reſidence was transferred to Kevenmably. Near it is a mill, ſuppoſed to have been the firſt ever erected in this county.

Returning by Lanvihangel Vedw to the half-way houſe, we proceeded to St. Melons, where the upper and lower roads from Newport to Caerdiff unite. The church is a ſingular but pictureſque edifice, built with rag ſtone and plaiſtered. It conſiſts of a nave, a chancel, a tower on the ſouth ſide of the church, a chapel, a cemetery, and a porch to the weſt of the tower, which forms the principal entrance: the inſide is narrow and long; the length from the weſtern extremity to the termination of the chancel being 105 feet, and the breadth 21. Three low gothic arches, reſting on rude columns of different forms, ſeparate the chapel from the nave and part of the chancel; this chapel was probably the original church. The tower, which is a rude maſſive building, is placed at its weſtern end, and communicates with it by a gothic doorway. The vaulted ceiling is not unworthy of notice, particularly at the eaſtern extremity of the chapel, where it is ornamented with curious compartments of carved wood, exhibiting cluſters of foliage and groteſque heads. Oppoſite the chapel, and on the other ſide of the chancel, is the cemetery of the Morgans ſeated at Lanrumney.

According to the Hiſtory of the Saints, St. Melo or Melanius, to whom the church is dedicated, was a native of Caerdiff, and planted chriſtianity in theſe parts, about the middle of the third century; he was biſhop of Rouen, and built, in 270, the cathedral, dedicated to the Virgin Mary*. In the Britiſh language the church is called Laneirwg, or the church of Eirwg, which ſignifies golden, an appellation which he derived from his ſwarthy complexion.

Three

* Ducarel's Alien Priories.

Three miles from St. Melons, cloſe to the high road from Newport to Caerdiff, is the church of Rumney, which is dedicated to St. Auguſtine, and is a very large edifice, being not leſs than 180 feet from the weſtern extremity of the tower to the end of the chancel. The tower is decorated with battlements and gothic pinnacles; the doorways are alſo gothic, excepting the weſtern entrance, which is formed by a ſemicircular arch repoſing on cluſtered columns. The windows exhibit remains of glaſs, painted with fleurs-de-lis, and other armorial bearings. This church was granted by William earl of Gloceſter to the abbey of Briſto', and is now in the patronage of the dean and chapter. It ſtands at the diſtance of a quarter of a mile from the bridge over the Rumney, which is here a mountain torrent, and only navigable, by means of the tide, about three miles from its mouth.

Various etymologies have been given of the word Rumney: ſome derive it from the Romans, who had ſtations in the vicinity, others from the Saxon word Rumon-ea, ſignifying a water, or watery place; a name well adapted to its ſituation on the borders of the level of Wentloog, which is alſo called Rumney marſh.

In Welſh the river Rumney was anciently called the Elarch, or the Swan river. Hence it is ſuppoſed to derive its appellation from ſwans, which frequented theſe marſhes in great numbers before they were drained. Others may conjecture that the name was derived from a colony of that nation, whom the Greeks figured under the name of Κυκνοι or ſwans, as ſettled on the banks of the Po, Pactolus, and Meander, and ſinging dirges at their own funerals: a fable which gave riſe to much beautiful imagery and charming fictions of the Greek poets concerning

Μουσαων ορνιθες, ἀοιδοτατοι πετελαων. Callimachus.

"Theſe birds of the muſes, the moſt harmonious of winged creatures." The ſongs of theſe ſwans are ſaid to have reached London, and with the ſame facility they might have arrived on the banks of the Rumney*.

From

* See Mr. Bryant's learned and intereſting diſquiſition in his Analyſis of Ancient Mythology, vol. 1. p. 267—284.

From the bridge of the Rumney * we returned to St. Melons, and purſued our journey along the lower or new turnpike road, from Newport to Caerdiff. This road runs along the ſide of the wooded eminences that ſkirt the edge of Wentloog level, and overlooks the whole of that fertile tract, reſcued by human induſtry from the devaſtation of the ſea. The level exhibits a ſingular and uniform appearance of a plain, divided into fields of paſture, interſected with drains, and dotted with a few white cottages, among which the towers of St. Bride's, Marſhfield, and Peterſton churches riſe conſpicuous; the waters of the Briſtol channel, beyond, ſeem like a continuation of this level ſurface.

We paſſed through Caſtleton, a ſmall village, which derives its name from an ancient caſtle at the bottom of the hill, on which the encampment of Pen y park Newydd is ſituated. It was formerly a place of ſtrength, and was probably built or occupied by the Normans, for the purpoſe of retaining their conqueſt of Wentloog. The only remains are a barrow in the garden of Mr. Philips, which is ſuppoſed to have been the ſite of the citadel, and a ſtone barn, once a chapel.

From Caſtleton we continued our route under the walls of Gwern y Cleppa park, where Mr. Evans pointed out to me the ruins of the old manſion, in the midſt of thickets, once the reſidence of Ivor Hael, or Ivor the Generous, ſecond ſon of Lewellin ap Ivor, lord of Tredegar. He was patron and uncle to David ap

* Near Rumney are two ſmall encampments which I was not appriſed of, and therefore did not viſit in my tour to the frontiers. Having ſince my return received an account of their poſition, Mr. Evans, at my requeſt, was ſo kind as to deſcribe them, and Mr. Morris ſurveyed them.

Beyond the junction of the upper and lower road from Newport to Caerdiff, and near Pen y Pil, is a ſmall encampment of an irregular figure, betwixt an oval and a polygon. It is ſituated on an abrupt eminence near a ſmall ſtream, the ſource of which is under the north-weſt ſide of the entrenchment. Its length is ſcarcely fifty yards, and its greateſt breadth forty. The entrenchments are deep: the height of the embankment on the north and eaſt ſides is about eleven yards; the declivity on the ſouth and weſt, from the nature of the ground, is much greater, the entrenchment being thrown up on the edge of a deep dingle, which is watered by the little ſtream. The entrance is on the ſouth-eaſt, and fronts the lower road from St. Melon's to Rumney.

The ſecond encampment overhangs the ſteep banks of the Rumney, a quarter of a mile above the bridge, and about three hundred yards from the turnpike. Its ſhape, as may be ſeen in the plan, is almoſt that of a D. Its greateſt length is ſixty-five yards, and breadth fifty. The depth of the entrenchments, and the height of the banks of earth, particularly towards the river, evidently prove that it was meant to guard the paſſage, and to prevent the incurſions of an enemy from the oppoſite banks. Connected with the weſtern ſide is a triangular outwork, the rampart of which is much lower than that incloſing the principal encampment. See the plans on the ſame plate with that of Twyn Barlwm.

ap Gwillim*, the celebrated bard of Glamorganſhire, whoſe works are publiſhed by Mr. Owen Jones. Roger Morgan, the laſt male of his deſcendants, dying in 1632, the eſtate came to the family of Tredegar.

Continuing our progreſs along the high road, we proceeded to Tredegar houſe, the large and magnificent manſion of the Morgan family. The grounds are extenſive and diverſified, and contain ſeveral fine features, both of a rude and pleaſing caſt, which are capable of great improvement. They are richly covered with groves of oaks and Spaniſh cheſnuts, remarkable for their age, ſize, and beauty; and traverſed by the torrent Ebwy, the red colour of whoſe rocky banks is ſtrikingly contraſted with the ſurrounding verdure. But the combination of theſe ſcenes into one grand whole, is prevented by the interpoſition of the turnpike road from Newport to Caerdiff, which divides the old and new park, and paſſes within a few hundred yards of the houſe.

Tredegar houſe has been long the reſidence of the Morgan family. Part of the original edifice, which is mentioned by Leland †, as "a very fair place of ſtone," ſtill remains, and is converted into offices. The principal part of the manſion is more modern, and was conſtructed in the reign of Charles the ſecond; it is of red brick, and being without projections or ornaments, has a maſſive appearance, and is more remarkable for ſize than elegance. The apartments are large, well proportioned, and convenient; ſeveral are left in their original ſtate. One of the moſt remarkable is the oak room, ſo called becauſe it is wainſcotted and floored with oak; the wainſcot is richly carved in the ſtyle of the laſt century, and the floor is formed from the planks of a ſingle tree; whoſe enormous height and ſize may be collected from the dimenſions of the apartment, which is forty-two feet in length, and twenty-ſeven in breadth.

Among a large collection of pictures, there is a fine portrait of ſerjeant Maynard, in his robes; a head of judge Morgan, with an inſcription on the back: "Judge Morgan, recorder of Brecknockſhire, and grandfather of Blanch, who "married William Morgan of Tredegar, eſq. and by whom the Brecknockſhire "eſtate deſcended into the Tredegar family."

Several

* A tranſlation of one of his odes is given in the Appendix.

† Itin. vol. 4. fol. 51.

Several family portraits are not unworthy of notice, as they aſſiſt in tracing the line of deſcent, and correcting the erroneous pedigrees which have been given of this illuſtrious family. Thomas Morgan of Machen, eſq. painted on wood, with an inſcription; æt. 52, 1620; a half length: he is dreſſed in a black robe, with a ſword and belt; the beard is pointed, hair ſtrait, and a ruff round the neck, according to the faſhion of James the firſt.

Sir William Morgan; ætatis ſuæ 90, 1650. This portrait repreſents the figure of a venerable old man, holding in one hand a book, in the other a ſtick. Thomas Morgan, eſq. æt. 74, 1664. He was the ſon of ſir William Morgan, and poſſeſſed Tredegar and Machen. The heads of ſir William Morgan, knight of the bath, of Thomas Morgan, his brother, of the late John Morgan, eſq. by whoſe death the male line of the Morgan family became extinct; and of his ſiſter Jane, the late wife of ſir Charles Gould Morgan, who, in virtue of his marriage, became poſſeſſor of the manſion and eſtate.

The family of Morgan, being ſo conſpicuous in the hiſtory of Wales, the Welſh bards have exerted their utmoſt ingenuity to trace its origin and lineage. Fanciful genealogiſts have preſumed to derive it from the third ſon of Noah, and modeſtly affect to correct the miſtake of the Engliſh, in carrying the pedigree to Cam, his ſecond ſon. Some ſtop with Brutus, the conqueror of Britain; others with Beli, one of the Britiſh kings, and ſome are even content with Caradoc or Caractacus. It is however generally agreed, that Cadivor the Great, lord of Dyfed, who died in 1084, was their great anceſtor. He married Eleanor, daughter of the lord of Kilſant, at which place, called in Monmouthſhire, the cradle of the Morgans, his ſon Bledri, was ſettled. His grandſon, Ivor ap Bledri, was lord of St. Clare* in Caermarthenſhire. Lewellyn ap Ivor, the fifth deſcendant from Cadivor the Great, eſpouſed Angharad, daughter and heireſs of ſir Morgan Meredith, knight, of Tredegar, from whom the manſion and eſtate were derived. He was the father of Morgan, who inherited Tredegar, of Ivor the Generous, founder of the line of Gwern y Cleppa, and of Philip, anceſtor of the Lewis's of St. Pierre.

On

* Among the papers in the poſſeſſion of William Jones, eſq. of Clytha, are ſeveral documents which prove that the family poſſeſſed the eſtate of St. Clare long after their eſtabliſhment at Tredegar.

On the death of ſir John Morgan, at the latter end of the fifteenth century, this branch was divided into the lines of Tredegar and Machen. William Morgan, the lineal deſcendant of the Tredegar line, who was ſheriff in the 6th year of Elizabeth, dying without legitimate iſſue, ſeems to have bequeathed the eſtate to his natural ſon John, whoſe ſon Miles inherited Tredegar, and was ſheriff in the 17th of Elizabeth. Miles eſpouſed Catherine, daughter of Rowland Morgan, of Machen, and by his will, ſigned in 1578, deviſed the eſtate to his brother-in-law Thomas, whoſe ſon and ſucceſſor, ſir William Morgan, knight, reſided at Tredegar in the reign of Charles the firſt, and during the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell. After the death of ſir William, Thomas his ſon removed from Machen, and made the additions to Tredegar houſe. His deſcendant ſir William Morgan, knight of the Bath, died in 1731, and left four children, William, Edward, Rachel, and Elizabeth. Edward and Rachel died in their infancy; Elizabeth married William Jones, eſq. and William deceaſing without iſſue, Thomas his uncle entered upon the landed eſtate, in virtue of ſir William Morgan's will, which paſſing over the daughters, without once naming them, was ſo unſkilfully worded, as to occaſion a law-ſuit between Elizabeth and Thomas. It continued twenty years, and was finally decided by the houſe of lords, in favour of Charles the ſon of Thomas, who dying without iſſue, the eſtate devolved on his brother John, the laſt male of this line. Leaving no children, he bequeathed Tredegar and the greater part of his large property to his ſiſter Jane, wife of ſir Charles Gould, baronet, now ſir Charles Morgan, and after her deceaſe to her huſband, with an entail upon their ſon Charles Morgan, eſq. of Ruperra *.

From Tredegar we croſſed a wooden bridge over the Ebwy, flowing in the midſt of a broad and ſtony channel, which though often an inſignificant ſtream,

is

* I have collected this account of the Morgan family, and the annexed pedigree, from documents in the poſſeſſion of William Jones, eſq. of Clytha, from ancient pedigrees in the Herald's Office, and from a pedigree drawn up by the late John Morgan, eſq. In the ſecond volume of the Cambrian Regiſter is a pedigree of the Morgans, which differs from theſe accounts: it breaks the male line, and continues the deſcent through Margaret, daughter of Morgan ap Lewellin, who eſpouſes Trahaern Meurig, in the following manner,

Lewellin ap Ivor.
|
Morgan.
|
Trahaern Meurig=MARGARET.
|
Lewellin ap Trahaern.
|
Ivan Lewellin.

CADIVOR the Great*, Lord of Blaencuch, d. 1084. = ELLEN, dr. and heirefs of Lwchlawen the Great, Lord of Kilfant.

Bledri, Lord of Blaencuch, d. 1119. = Clydwen, dr. and coht. of Kydrig ap Gwaithvoed, Lord of Gwynvaye.

Ivor ap Bledri †, Lord of St. Clare. = Tangiwft, dr. of Howell Sais, nat. fon of the Lord Rhys.

Lewellin †, Lord of St. Clare. = Leici, dr. of Griffith ap Beli.

Ivor. = Neft, dr. of Cradoc ap Madoc ap Idnerth ap Cadogan ap Eliftan Glodryth.

Sir Morgan Meredith Lord of Tredegar; defcended from Rhys, K. of South Wales.

Lewellin, Lord of St. Clare and Gwynvaye, co. Caermarthen. = ANGHARAD, HEIRESS OF TREDEGAR.

Morgan, Lord of St. Clare and Tredegar. = Maud, dr. of Rhys ap Gronw Lord of Kybor.

Ivor Hael, Lord of Wernclepp.

Philip, anceftor of the Lewis's of St. Pierre.

Lewellin ap Morgan, Lord of St. Clare and Tredegar. = Jennet, dr. of David Vychan or Vaughan ap David, of Hyer Rhudodyn, co. Monm. Efq.

Philip.

Evan ap Lewellin ap Morgan. = Elifabeth or Dennis, dr. of Thomas ap Lewellin ap Howell ap Einion Sais.

Sir John Morgan, Knt. of the Sepulchre, of St. Clare and Tredegar; living 1491. = Jennet, dr. and heirefs of John Matthew, Efq. of Landaff.

Sir Morgan ap John, of Tredegar, Knt. = Margaret, dr. of Sir I. Morgan, of Langfton and Pencoed.

John Morgan, m. Margaret Richard of Dyffrin.

Thomas Morgan of Machen: [See ☞ next page.]

John Morgan, of Tredegar: will dated 1513. = Lettice, dr. of Sir George Herbert.

John, m. Anne, dr. of Thomas Gwillim.

William, of Tredegar: will dated 1568, proved 1569. = Catherine, dr. and heirefs of Thomas Bodenham, Efq.

William of Winfton.

John. = Elifabeth, dr. of Sir Edward Stradling, Knt.

Miles: will dated 1578, proved 1581. Sheriff 15 Eliz. = Elifabeth, or Catherine, dr. of Rowland Morgan.

* The arms of Cadivor the Great were arg. a lion rampant gardant fa. which was long ufed as the firft quartering of his defcendants, although, or a griffin fegreant fa. is now borne by the family. The lion, however, appears in the firft quartering of the fhield of arms over the door of Tredegar houfe, which was probably built in the reign of Charles II.

† In an ancient pedigree of the Morgan family now at Tredegar, and kindly communicated by Sir Charles Morgan, the firft Ivor and

(Continuation of the Pedigree.)

☞ Thomas Morgan, of Machen, Esquire of the King's body, 21 H. VII. living 1529. = Elisabeth, dr. of Roger Vaughan, of Talgarth, or Tre Phellippe, Esq.

- Rowland, living 1570. = Blanch, dr. of William John, alias Jones, of Treowen, Esq.
  - Thomas, sometime of Middle Temple: will dated Tredegar, 1603. = Elisabeth, dr. of Roger Bodenham of Roderas, co. Hereford,
    - Elisabeth, dr. of Sir William Winter of Lidney, c. Glocest. = Sir William of Tredegar, Knt. 1633: will proved 1653. = 2d. Bridget, dr. of Arthur Morgan, Esq. of Hagford, co. Northamp. d. before 2 Nov. 1627.
      - 1st Rachel, dr. of Ralph Hopton of and sister and coh. of Ralph, Lord Hopton of Stretton, relict of David Kemeys, Esq. of Kevenmably, co. Somerset, Esq. = - - - - Thomas - - - - of Machen and Tredegar, d. May 13, 1664. = 2d. Elisabeth, dr. and heiress of —— Windham of Sandhill, co. Somerset, d. 1666.
        - 1st. Blanch, dr. and Heiress of Sir Wm. Morgan of Thurrow, co. Brecon, d. 1673. = - - - William - - - of Tredegar, d. 1682. = 2d. Elisabeth, dr. and coheiress of Edward Lewis of Van Park, co. Glamorgan, relict of Sir Francis Darell, Bucks. Knt.
          - Thomas, b. 1664, d. 1699 = Martha, dr. of Sir Edward Mansell of Margam, co. Glamorgan, Knt. d. 1696.
            - A son, d. an infant.
            - Sir William, K. B. b. 1700, d. 1731. = Lady Rachel Cavendish, d. 1780.
              - William, b. 1725, d. un-m. 1763.
              - Elisabeth, m. 1767, W. Jones, Esq. d. 1787.
              - Thomas, b. 1727, d. un-m. 1771.
              - Charles, b. 1736, d. 1787, m. Mary, dr. and heiress of Tho. Parry, of — co. Hereford, relict of Robert Gouge of Tregoe, d. 1779.
              - John, d. 1792. m. Louise, dr. of Ch. Pym Burt, Esq. of London.
              - Jane, d. 1797. = Sir Charles Gould, now Sir Charles Morgan, Bart.
                - Charles Morgan, Esq. of Ruperra, heir of Tredegar.
              - Catherine, m. C. Van, Esq. of Lanwern, b. 1735, d. 1784.
          - John of Tredegar, 5th son and heir, b. 1670, d. 1719. = Martha, dr. of Gwyn Vaughan of Trebarred, co. Brecon, d. 1720.
            - Thomas of Ruperra, b. 1702, d. 1769. = Jane, dr. of Maynard Colchester, Esq. of Westbury on Severn, co. Glocester.
        - John of Ruperra.
        - 5 sons and 7 daughters.

In addition to the authorities mentioned in the note to p. 66, I am indebted to the kindness of Sir Charles Morgan for the communication of several ancient pedigrees preserved at Tredegar house.

is occaſionally ſwollen by the rains, and like an Alpine torrent, ſpreads its devaſtations to a conſiderable diſtance.

Returning to Newport, I viſited, in a ſubſequent excurſion, Machen Place, another ancient ſeat of the Morgan family. After paſſing through Baſſaleg, I left the upper road to Caerdiff, and traverſing an undulating country, well wooded, and diverſified with corn and paſture, entered the vale of Machen. The ſcenery of this ſequeſtered ſpot is a pleaſing intermixture of wildneſs and cultivation; it is of an oval ſhape, and the hills, with which it is ſkirted, are partly covered with herbage, and partly overhung with thick foreſts. The Rumney, here alſo the boundary of the two counties, ſweeps along the vale, and is loſt in deep and impervious woods. The white cottages ſcattered in the plain and on the gentle acclivities, the church, with its white body and brown tower, and Machen hill, whoſe ſteep ſide is almoſt covered with limekilns appearing like ſmall caves in the rock, form all together a ſingular and cheerful aſſemblage of objects.

Machen Place is ſituated at the commencement of the vale, under the hanging groves of Ruperra. This once reſpectable ſeat, now a farm houſe haſtening to decay, ſtill exhibits a few traces of paſt grandeur: a circular apartment, called the hunting room, is decorated with a rich ſtuccoed cieling, repreſenting the figure of Diana in the middle, with ſeats, churches, and hunting parties, in twelve ſurrounding compartments. A pair of andirons weighing three hundred pounds, which were not unuſually employed in roaſting an ox whole, with a large oak table on which it was ſerved, convey a recollection of former times and former hoſpitality.

The branch of the family ſettled at Machen, were the deſcendants of ſir John Morgan, knight of the ſepulchre, by his third ſon Thomas. Of his grandſon Rowland, Leland ſays, "There is another of the Morgans, dwelling by Rumny "at Maghen, having a fair houſe. He had bene a man of fair landes, if his "father had not divided it partely to other of his ſunnes*." The laſt perſon who reſided here was Thomas, who after the death of his father ſir William, made the

* Leland's Itin. vol. 4. fol. 53.

the additions to Tredegar houſe, from which period Machen Place was gradually deſerted.

Having examined the manſion, I walked to the church, which ſtands on the other ſide of the road, at the diſtance of about half a mile: it is a ſmall edifice of a ſimple form, with gothic windows and doors. To the north of the chancel is a chapel, the burial place of the Morgan family; in which repoſe the aſhes of thoſe who reſided at Machen, Tredegar, and Ruperra. There are no tombs and inſcriptions before the beginning of this century. Moſt of theſe memorials are ſimple graveſtones, on each of which the names of ſeveral perſons are inſcribed.

Three marble tablets are placed againſt the walls, with emblazoned coats of arms. The firſt was erected to the memory of John Morgan, eſq. of Ruperra, the ſon of Thomas Morgan of Machen and Tredegar, a London merchant, who after acquiring a large fortune, retired to Ruperra, which he had purchaſed, and died in 1715. He was a conſiderable benefactor to the family, and left the manſion and eſtate of Ruperra to his nephew John, whom the ſecond tablet commemorates in an inſcription too long to be inſerted. He was lord lieutenant of the counties of Monmouth and Brecon, member of parliament for Monmouthſhire, and a great ſupporter of the whig intereſt; he died in 1719, aged 50.

The third tablet is ſacred to the memory of his ſon ſir William Morgan, who was born 1701, and in 1725 was inaugurated knight of the Bath, on the revival of the order. He eſpouſed Lady Rachel Cavendiſh, eldeſt daughter of William, ſecond duke of Devonſhire, and died in 1731, aged 30. His epitaph contains a warm eulogium of his character.

" Though he came when young to the Poſſeſſion
" of
Power, Honour, an high Alliance, and a great Eſtate;
" Yet they neither made him forget himſelf,
" Nor his Father's Friends.
" He was a Stranger to Inſolence, Oppreſſion, or Ingratitude,
" Humane, courteous, and benevolent.

" In

" In his Converſation and at his Table,
" Sprightly, free, and engaging,
" A Lover of his Neighbours, compaſſionate, and charitable
" Amiable for theſe, and other good Qualities,
" And much lamented at his untimely Death."

His wife ſurvived him near fifty years, and died in 1780, in the eighty-firſt year of her age.

The eminence which riſes above the church, is called from the vale, Machen hill, and is a remarkable feature on the weſtern ſide of the county. It contains ſmall quantities of zinc and lead, but is rich in the beſt coal, which is in much repute for the furnaces and braſs manufactories; it abounds alſo with limeſtone, which forms a conſiderable branch of traffic in theſe parts, for the purpoſe of manure.

A little beyond Machen church the vale narrows, and the road runs between two ridges of hills overhanging the Rumney, here a ſmall but rapid torrent; ſoon afterwards it widens and opens into a more extenſive country, ſprinkled with neat farm houſes, in the midſt of incloſures of corn and paſture. This diſtrict is extremely fertile and well cultivated, and yields more corn, in proportion to its extent, than any other part of Monmouthſhire.

A pleaſant walk leads from the turnpike acroſs the fields to the church of Bedwas, ſituated at the foot of the hills, about half a mile from the high road. The church, which is dedicated to St. Barrog, a ſaint of whom I can find no account, contains nothing worthy of notice; it is held in commendam with the ſee of Landaff, and forms no inconſiderable part of its ſcanty revenues. The view from the church yard is pleaſing and diverſified. On one ſide ſtretch the wild hills of Monmouthſhire, on the other, a fertile and extenſive vale, with the majeſtic battlements of Caerphilly caſtle, appearing like the ruins of a vaſt city, and towering above the ſwelling and wooded eminences with which they are ſurrounded.

From Bedwas I croſſed the Rumney into Glamorganſhire, and paſſing through Caerphilly, made a circuit by Ruperra houſe, and re-entered Monmouthſhire

at

at Machen bridge, where the Rumney, pent up in a narrow channel, breaks over its rocky bed, and ruſhes down the wooded declivities.

Another branch of the Morgan family was ſeated at Rogeſton caſtle, about half a mile from Baſſaleg, and near three from Newport. It ſtands in a pleaſing ſituation, not far from the Ebwy, whoſe red precipitous banks are tufted with trees.

This ancient caſtle, called in Welſh Tre Gwillim, or William's Houſe, belonged to the anceſtor of the Stradling or Eſterling family, one of the twelve knights who aſſiſted Robert Fitzhamon in the conqueſt of Glamorganſhire. But I am wholly ignorant by what means it came into the poſſeſſion of the Morgans, or to whom it deſcended on the extinction of that line. The only remains of the ancient ſtructure are viſible in the walls and outhouſes of the preſent manſion, which is a modern edifice, and built on the old foundations. Theſe fragments are very maſſive, and meaſure, without their facings, near ſeven feet in thickneſs; they occupy a mount, which was the ſite of the citadel, and appears to have been very extenſive; the field adjoining to the garden is ſtill called the caſtle-cloſe. The premiſes, as well as ſome adjoining works on the banks of the Ebwy, belong to the royal mine company, and are tenanted by Mr. Butler of Caerleon; they were erected in 1772 for copper works, but are now uſed for the manufacture of iron rods, bars, bolts for ſhipping, and tin plates *.

* See account of Mr. Butler's Manufactories, near Caerleon, of which this is a branch, in Chap. 11.

CHAPTER 9.

Level of Wentloog.—Sea Walls.—Greenfield Caſtle.—Churches of St. Bride's, Peterſton, and Marſhfield.—Excurſion to Twyn Barlwm.

THE level of Wentloog is that diſtrict which ſtretches from eaſt to weſt, between the rivers Uſk and Rumney, and from north to ſouth, between the Briſtol Channel and the gentle ridge of Tredegar Park, Gwern y Cleppa, Caſtleton, St. Melon's, and Rumney. This whole tract, like the level of Caldecot, is perfectly flat, and reſcued from the devaſtations of the ſea by a line of embankments or ſea walls, which are not built of ſtone, as thoſe in Caldecot Level near Goldcliff, but wholly conſtructed with earth. The proprietors of theſe lands are ſubject to the ſame laws as thoſe of Romney Marſh in Kent, and are under the controul of a court of ſewers. The account of the conſtitution of this court, communicated by my friend Mr. Evans, who is himſelf one of the commiſſioners, is inſerted in the Appendix.

The labour and expence of this great undertaking may be collected from the length of the ſea walls:

	Perches.	Feet.	Inches.
In Rumney Pariſh	909	16	0
— Peterſton	769	9	6
— St. Brides	824	18	5
— Baſſaleg	725	17	0
— St. Woolos	1676	5	0
	4906	5	11

In company with Mr. Evans, I viſited ſeveral places in this extenſive level. A mile and a half to the ſouth-weſt of Newport, in the level of Mendalgyf, are

the ruins of Caſtell Glâs, or Green Caſtle, which ſtand on the left bank of the Ebwy, not far from its conſluence with the Uſk; it was formerly a caſtle belonging to the duke of Lancaſter, and eſteemed a place of ſtrength and ſecurity in the civil wars. It is neither mentioned by Leland or Camden, but is deſcribed by Churchyard in the reign of Elizabeth *.

The remains of this once ſtrong and ſplendid caſtle, which ſtand near the farm houſe, conſiſt of a building now uſed as a ſtable for cattle, a ſquare tower with a ſpiral ſtair-caſe, a ſtone edifice containing ſeveral apartments, in one of which is a large fire-place, with a fine gothic entrance, and in the inſide ſeveral gothic doors. It is faced with hewn limeſtone from an adjoining quarry. Some detached ruins and foundations, which are continually dug up, prove its former extent. At a ſmall diſtance is a circular mound, ſurrounded with a foſs, and overgrown with thickets; this was probably the ſite of the ancient keep or citadel; it overhangs the old channel of the Ebwy. Within the memory of the preſent tenant, was a ſtone wall about five feet high parallel to the banks, where veſſels, which could aſcend the river, uſed to unload. The eſtate once formed a portion of the duchy of Lancaſter †, but now belongs to the family of Tredegar, and the farm is called Greenfield.

We next viſited the three churches of the Level, St. Bride's, Peterſtone and Marſhfield. The ground, like marſhy plains which have been drained, is cut into parallel ditches, in ſome of which the water ſtagnates, in others it runs in perpetual ſtreams, called rheens, which fall into the ſea through flood-gates or gouts. The roads leading through theſe flat marſhes are ſtraight, narrow, and pitched, which exhauſt the patience of the traveller, like that mentioned in Horace:

"*Mimus gravis appia tardis.*"

Theſe

* "A goodly ſeate, a tower, a princely pyle,
"Built as a watch, or ſaftie for the ſoyle,
"By river ſtands, from Newport not three myle:
"This houſe was made, when many a bloodie broyle,
"In Wales, God wot, deſtroy'd that publicke ſtate;
"Here men with ſword and ſhield did braules debate:
"Here ſaftie ſtood, for many things in deede,
"That ſought ſafeguard, and did ſome ſucker needé.
"The name thereof, the nature ſhewes a right,
"Greenefield it is, full gay and goodly ſure,
"A fine ſweet ſoyle, moſt pleaſant unto ſight,
"That for delight, and wholeſome ayre ſo pure,
"It may be praiſde, a plot ſought out ſo well,
"As though a king ſhould ſay, here will I dwell;
"The paſtures greene, the woods and water cleere,
"Sayth any prince may buyld a pallace heere."
Worthines of Wales, p. 50.

† Archives of the duchy of Lancaſter.

Theſe marſhes, being only inhabited by farmers and labourers, contain very few houſes and cottages. The natives are in general Welſh, and many of them ſcarcely underſtand Engliſh; conſequently the churches are ſerved in the Welſh language. In former times the population muſt have been conſiderable, becauſe the churches are large, and capable of containing great congregations, though now reduced to forty or fifty perſons.

The church of St. Bride's, in Welſh Lanſanfraed, or Llan ſaint fryd, is about three miles and a half from Newport. The tower is a handſome ſtructure of hewn ſtone, in the gothic ſtyle of architecture, and more modern than the other parts, which are of coarſer materials. A high and narrow gothic arch at the weſt end of the church, and two low pointed arches on cluſtered pillars, the ſhafts of which are not more than four feet five inches in height, ſeparating a ſmall chapel from the chancel, ſeem to indicate that this part of the building was conſtructed ſoon after the introduction of gothic architecture. On the ſouth wall of the church, within a porch which forms the principal entrance, is an inſcription carved in free ſtone:

THE . GREAT . FLVD
20 IANVARIE
IN THE MORNING
1606.

The loweſt part of this inſcription, which marks the height to which the waters arrived, is about five feet from the ground: a ſecond inundation in 1708 covered the Level from Magor to Caerdiff*, and another happened a few years ago, but neither was ſo high as that of 1606.

The church of Peterſton, ſituated at the diſtance of ſix miles to the ſouth-weſt of St. Bride's, and within a quarter of a mile from the ſea walls, is a ſingularly large and elegant edifice for a diſtrict ſo remote and ill inhabited; it is wholly conſtructed

* The dreadful devaſtations of this inundation, were deſcribed in a pamphlet called "Lamentable News from Monmouthſhire in Wales. Containing the wonderfull, and moſt fearfull accidents of the overflowing of the waters in the ſaid countrye, drowning infinite numbers of cattell of all kinds, as ſheepe, oxen, kine, and horſes, with others, together with the loſſe of many men, women, and children, and ſubverſion of xxvi pariſhes in January laſt." 1608, 4to.

conſtructed with hewn ſtone, and the tower exhibits a good ſpecimen of gothic architecture. The inſide conſiſts of a nave and ſide aiſles, decorated with two ranges of lofty and elegant gothic arches, repoſing on cluſtered pillars. The church is greatly dilapidated, and the roof though now flat, was originally vaulted with ſtone; ſome groteſque heads, which formed the baſe of the flying columns that ſupported the roof, ſtill remain on the ſide walls above the pillars. The arches are bulged, and the columns have conſiderably declined from the perpendicular direction. The chancel is fallen down, but its ſite may be traced on the outſide of the preſent eaſt window.

This church is dedicated to St. Peter, and was built in the twelfth century by Mabile, daughter and heireſs of Robert Fitzhamon, the great Norman baron, who conquered Glamorganſhire, and wife of the puiſſant chief Robert earl of Gloceſter, natural ſon of Henry the firſt. She gave it to the abbey of Briſtol, with an addition of ſixty acres of land in the pariſh of Peterſton *. The dean and chapter of Briſtol are proprietors and patrons.

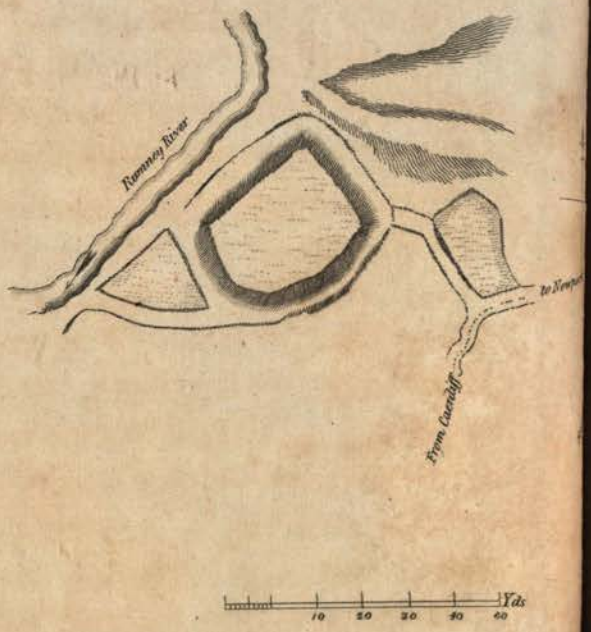
From the top of the tower, the view, though not picturesque, is ſtriking and ſingular; it commands the whole of the Level, ſkirted towards the Briſtol Channel by the extenſive line of ſea walls, and on the ſide of the land bounded by an amphitheatre of wooded eminences, backed by ranges of hills towering in ſucceſſion one above the other.

Marſhfield church is three miles and a half from Peterſton, near the extremity of the Level towards Caſtleton; it is more ancient than Peterſton, is built chiefly of rubble ſtone, plaiſtered and white waſhed, and conſiſts of a ſquare tower or belfry, a nave, and a chancel. The roof is of wood, vaulted; in ſome parts are remains of painted ornaments, with which the beams were once covered. The windows and doorways are all gothic, excepting the entrance to the ſouth, which is a ſemicircular arch, ornamented with a foliage of twiſted branches, and repoſing on two ſlender columns; this entrance is concealed by a handſome gothic porch. The tythes of the pariſh and the advowſon of the church were granted by

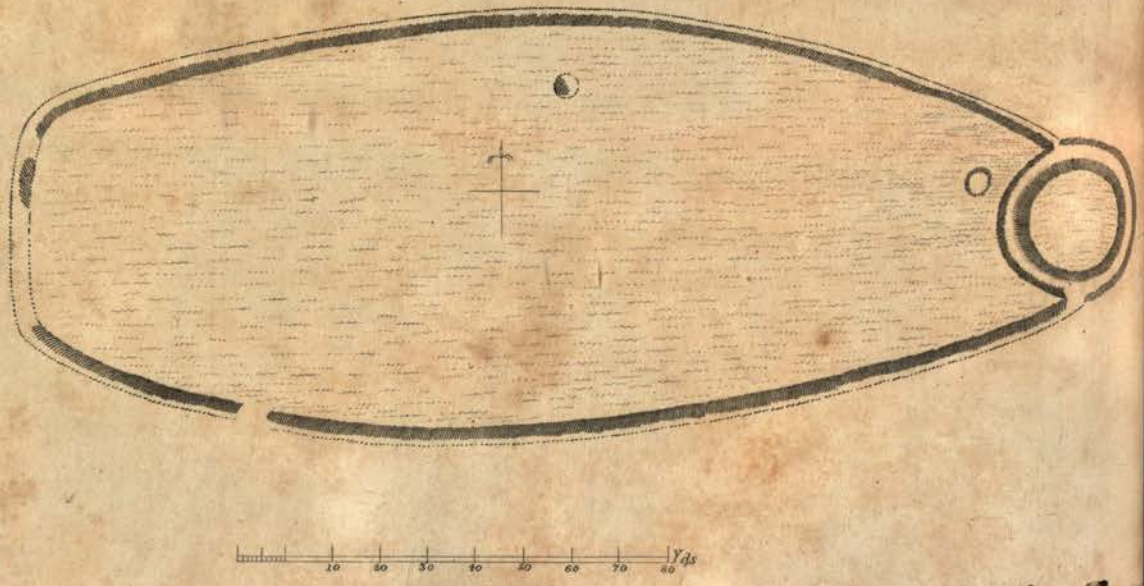
* Barrett's Hiſtory of Briſtol, p. 258.

Encampment near Pen y Pil

Encampment near Rumney Bridge



Tumulus and Entrenchment on Twyn Barlwm



del.t by T. Morrice

by William earl of Gloceſter, and lord of Wentloog, to the abbey of Briſtol. The dean and chapter of Briſtol are alſo patrons and proprietors.

A narrow pitched road from Marſhfield church leads to Caſtleton, from which place we returned by Tredegar to Caerau.

The peculiar appearance of Twyn Barlwm, and its ſituation at the extremity of the long ridge of the Mynydd Maen, with its ſteep declivities and abrupt ſeparation from Machen Hill, excited my curioſity to aſcend to its ſummit. Three times I was prevented by rainy weather, but at length was fortunate enough, in a fine day and a clear atmoſphere, to attain the object of my expedition.

We departed from Caerau, and quitting the upper Caerdiff road at the hand-poſt, continued three miles along the turnpike leading to Riſca, paſſing not far from the courſe of the Ebwy, through a beautifully wooded country of hill and dale, diverſified with incloſures of corn and paſture. We then left the Riſca road, aſcended a ſteep pitch to the canal, croſſed it over a bridge, and in a ſhort time came to a cottage about two miles from the village of Henllys. Here quitting our chaiſe, we rode up a gentle acclivity, clothed with copſes and underwood, along a narrow and ſtony path, and in three quarters of an hour reached the bottom of the ſwelling hill called Twyn Barlwm. We ſkirted its baſe over ſome heathy and boggy ground, and alighting from our horſes, aſcended to the top.

The eminence of Twyn Barlwm is a ſwelling height, about ſix miles in circumference at its baſe, riſing on the ſouth-weſtern extremity of Mynydd Maen; and is covered with coarſe ruſſet herbage, moſs and heath, without a ſingle tree, from which it derives its name*. The ſummit is a flat ſurface of an oval ſhape, and on the higheſt part is crowned with a circular tumulus, or artificial mound of earth and ſtones, eighteen yards in height, and ſurrounded with a deep foſs. The entrance is north-eaſt, from which a trench, about three feet in depth, is carried round the brow of the eminence, and returns to the oppoſite ſide of the tumulus. The ſhape and dimenſions are accurately delineated by Mr. Morrice in the annexed plan.

Many

* Twyn Barlwm, in Welſh y Twyn a'i var yn Llwm, or the hill with the ſummit barren or naked. From Twyn a hill, Bar a ſummit, and Llwm barren or naked.

Many different opinions have been formed concerning the origin and uſe of this work. Some call it a beacon, ſome a ſtrong hold, and others a place of ſepulture. I am inclined to believe that it was originally one of thoſe places of ſepulture called Carns*, which in the early ages of the world were in common uſe among all nations, and particularly among the Britons, who were accuſtomed to bury their moſt famous leaders on the higheſt eminences, either as a conſpicuous memorial, or to ſtrike terror into their enemies. In ſubſequent times it may have been employed as a beacon, or even as a temporary faſtneſs, in caſe of a ſudden invaſion; though from its ſize and condition, it could not be uſed as a permanent place of defence. It might contain the aſhes of ſome valiant chief among the Silures, who fell in defending his country againſt the Romans. The name of Cwm Carn, or the valley of the Carn, which is given to a neighbouring dingle, in the ſides of the Mynydd Maen, may have been derived from this tumulus. But whatever was its primary deſtination, I am informed by Mr. Owen, that according to a tradition in the neighbourhood, and particularly among the preſent race of bards, it was once a celebrated place for holding the Eiſteddfod, or bardic meetings.

Twyn Barlwm being ſituated on the higheſt point of the chain which bounds the rich valleys watered by the Uſk, commands one of the moſt ſingular and glorious proſpects which I had yet enjoyed in Monmouthſhire; and which cannot be reduced to a ſpecific and adequate deſcription. To the ſouth, the levels of Caldecot and Wentloog, with the broad Severn, loſing itſelf in an expanſe of ſea, ſeemed to ſtretch at the bottom of its ſloping declivity; the town of Newport, and the tower of Chriſtchurch riſing in the midſt of hills and foreſts. To the eaſt appear the cultivated parts of Monmouthſhire, ſwelling into numerous undulations fertiliſed by the meandering Uſk. Theſe rich proſpects are contraſted on the north and weſt, with a waving ſurface of mountains that ſtretch beyond the confines of Glamorganſhire and Brecknockſhire. This dreary expanſe is nothing but a ſucceſſion of ruſſet eminences, almoſt without the appearance of a ſingle habitation, excepting the diſtrict of Croſs Penmaen, which is profuſely ſtudded with white houſes on the ſummit, and along the ſloping declivities.

* See ſome ſenſible remarks on theſe ſepulchral monuments in the Cambrian Regiſter, vol. 2. p. 350.

clivities. The beautiful valleys of the Ebwy and Sorwy appear in the hollows between the mountains, deeply ſhaded with trees, and watered by torrents which faintly glimmer through the intervening foliage.

Quitting reluctantly this delightful proſpect, we walked down the heathy ſide of the mountain, and then paſſed along a narrow path, leading through thickets, under the weſtern extremity of Twyn Barlwm, which is a rocky precipice overhanging the church of Riſca. The beautiful glen through which the Ebwy flows, ſeemed to open as we deſcended, and caught a view of the torrent from its junction with the Sorwy, flowing under the new canal, which appears like a floating ribband winding along the ſides of the projecting declivities. Entering into the road a little beyond the church of Riſca, we continued along a wide and fertile valley, much expoſed to the inundations of the Ebwy, and bounded by chains of undulating hills.

CHAPTER 10.

Road from Newport to Caerleon.—Malpas Church.—Caerleon.—Etymology.—Roman Antiquities.—Walls.—Circumference.—Amphitheatre.—Suburbs, or Ultra Pontem.—Caſtle.—Ancient Encampments in the Vicinity.

TWO roads lead from Newport to Caerleon; the one croſſes the Uſk over the new bridge, and continues along the turnpike two miles and a half, then paſſes the weſt end of Chriſtchurch, deſcends to the bridge, and over the Uſk to Caerleon; this is the ſhorteſt, and moſt frequented: the other winds round Malpas Pill, continues parallel to the right bank of the Uſk, and enters the north-weſtern gate of Caerleon. This was the only way during the conſtruction of Newport bridge. The diſtance from Newport to Caerleon by this road, is four miles and a half.

A principal object of curioſity in this route, is the church of Malpas, on the right ſide of the road, a mile and a half from Newport.

There was a religious houſe for two cluniac monks at Malpas, which was a cell to the priory of Montacute, in Somerſetſhire; and is ſuppoſed by Tanner to be the Terra de Cairlion, granted to that monaſtery by Winebald de Baeluna, in the reign of Henry the firſt *. Edmund earl of Stafford, who poſſeſſed Newport caſtle, was the patron. It was granted as parcel of Montacute, in 1546, to ſir William Herbert of St. Julian's.

The chapel of this cell, now the pariſh church, is worthy of being viſited by the antiquary, as one of the moſt ancient religious edifices in theſe parts.

It is a ſmall building of unhewn ſtone, of an oblong ſhape like a barn, with a belfry having two apertures for bells. The arched door which is on the weſtern ſide,

* Tanner's Notitia Monaſtica, art. Monmouthſhire.

ſide, the ſtone frames of the three principal windows, as well as the arch which ſeparates the chancel from the church, are all rounded, and decorated with friezes of hatched moulding, denticles, and receding columns, peculiar to the Saxon and Norman architecture. The arch of the ſouthern window, which ſeems to have been a doorway, is more elegantly ornamented, and emboſſed with roſes, not unlike the Etruſcan ſtyle. All the columns, which are moſtly of a rude form, have diſſimilar capitals and ſhafts, a ſtriking feature in Saxon ſtructures. Some modern gothic windows have been introduced into the ſtone frames of the original apertures.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a perpetual curacy in the dioceſe of Landaff. After the diſſolution, it remained in the patronage of the family of St. Julian's, to whom the ſite of the priory lands was granted, but is now in the preſentation of ſir Charles Morgan, the family of Tredegar having purchaſed the advowſon, with the great and ſmall tythes. The extended value of the curacy is only five pounds; but it has been greatly benefited by queen Anne's bounty; lands having been purchaſed and annexed to it, which are now let for thirty-five pounds, and are highly improvable.

Malpas is ſuppoſed, by thoſe who are fond of tracing etymologies from the Latin tongue, to derive its appellation from *Malo paſſu*, or a bad paſs; becauſe the Roman road, which is ſuppoſed to have paſſed this way, was rough and hilly; but a more natural derivation is furniſhed by my friend Mr. Evans, from Malp aes, or a plain within the hills, which exactly correſponds with the ſituation, it being a plain between hills, and the only plain in the vicinity.

A little beyond Malpas church, I quitted the turnpike road which leads by Lantarnam to Pont y Pool, and followed the route to Caerleon. About midway I mounted a ſteep and rugged aſcent, and looked down on the rich vale, ſtretching in the form of a bow, with Newport caſtle and Caerleon church at each extremity, and the venerable manſion of St. Julian's, ſeated on the feathered banks of the Uſk, occupying the middle of the arc. On one ſide Caerleon appears in a flat, and on the other the narrow and long town of Newport riſes along the ſide of an eminence to the church of St. Woolos, embowered with trees. I rode under an

ancient encampment near the old lodge of Lantarnam park, and paſſed through the opening which once formed the entrance of Iſca Silurum, the reſidence of the ſecond Auguſtan legion, and the chief ſtation of the Romans in the country of the Silures, now occupied by the ſmall town of Caerleon, which is ſeated on the right bank of the Uſk. There is no occaſion to employ many words in proof of theſe facts; the remains of the walls and amphitheatre, the numerous ſculptures, altars, pavements, inſcriptions, coins, and other antiquities diſcovered within the town and the vicinity, evidently prove it the ſite of a great Roman city. Immenſe quantities of Roman bricks, ſtamped with the impreſſion in relievo of LEG II AVG which ſtill continue to be found, ſeveral of which I myſelf obſerved, teſtify that it was the ſtation of the ſecond Auguſtan legion, during a long courſe of years.

It is denominated in Antonine's Itinerary, Iſca Legionis ſecundæ Auguſtæ*; by the monk of Ravenna, Iſca Auguſta; by others, Iſca Silurum; and by Richard, Iſca Colonia.

The modern name of Caerleon is generally ſuppoſed to be derived from Caer, the Britiſh word for a fortified city, and Leon, a corruption of Legionum, meaning the city of the legions. But this derivation is denied by Mr. Owen†, author of the Welſh Dictionary, and one of the beſt Britiſh linguiſts: he affirms its Britiſh name to be Caer Lliön, or the city of the waters; this etymology is not inapplicable to its ſituation on the banks of a tide river which riſes very high, and near the Avon Lwyd, a torrent inundating the country.

Giraldus Cambrenſis gives a brilliant account of its ruins in the twelfth century: "Many remains of its former magnificence are ſtill viſible; ſplendid palaces which once emulated with their gilded roofs‡ the grandeur of Rome, for it was originally built by the Roman princes, and adorned with ſtately edifices; a gigantic

* In Horſley's copy it was written Iſca Legua Auguſta, plainly a corruption for Iſca Legionis Secundæ Auguſtæ.

† As I am totally unacquainted with the Welſh tongue, I have thought proper to inſert Mr. Owen's ingenious obſervations in the Appendix.

‡ I ſuſpect that theſe gilded roofs were taken from Geoffry of Monmouth's deſcription of Caerleon in the time of king Arthur: "The magnificence of the royal palaces, with *lofty gilded roofs* that adorned it, made it even rival the grandeur of Rome." B. ix. c. 12.

Mr.

PLAN of CAERLEON

or Isca Silurum

Pub. July 30. 1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand.

tic tower, numerous baths, ruins of temples, and a theatre, the walls of which are partly ſtanding. Here we ſtill ſee, both within and without the walls, ſubterraneous buildings, aqueducts, and vaulted caverns; and what appeared to me moſt remarkable, ſtoves ſo excellently contrived, as to diffuſe their heat through ſecret and imperceptible pores*."

The preſent ruins, however, are extremely inconſiderable, and conſiſt only of walls, and the excavation of the amphitheatre. The form and ſize of the ancient town may be diſcovered by the line of the walls, which though in many places dilapidated, and in others covered with buildings, have been traced by Mr. Evans: with his kind aſſiſtance I examined their ſite, and am enabled to preſent to the public an accurate plan of the town, taken by Mr. Morrice.

The ſhape of the fortreſs appears to be oblong, inclining to a ſquare; three of the ſides are ſtrait, and the fourth, like the northern wall of Caerwent, curvilinear: the ſides are of different dimenſions, and incloſe a circumference of about 1800 yards; the corners are gently rounded, like moſt of the Roman ſtations in Britain, and the four angles nearly correſpond with the cardinal points of the compaſs.

We commenced our ſurvey at the ſouthern angle, near the extremity of the Round Table field, where the walls exhibit the moſt ſtriking remains of their ancient ſtructure; their preſent elevation is in no place more than fourteen feet, which is conſiderably leſs than their original height: their greateſt thickneſs between eleven and twelve.

The

Mr. Evans has ſuggeſted to me, that this expreſſion of gilded roofs, though exaggerated, was deſcriptive of the ſplendid appearance of the Roman tiles. A few years ago, a maſs of broken tiles was diſcovered in the garden of Mr. Richard Hay: by comparing the fragments, they had nearly the ſame dimenſions and concave form as our common pantiles; they appeared to have been glazed with a ſemi-tranſparent brown ſubſtance, ſimilar to the lacker uſed by japanners; under this varniſh was a ſprinkling of white ſand, which when enlightened by the rays of the ſun, exhibited a brilliant and yellow hue, not wholly unlike the golden luſtre produced by the ſilver leaf under the lacker in japan trinkets.

* "Dicitur Caerleon urbs legionum, *Caer* enim Britannicè *urbs* vel *caſtrum* dicitur. Solent quippe legiones à Romanis in inſulam tranſmiſſæ ibi hyemare, et inde urbs legionum dicta eſt. Erat autem hæc urbs antiqua et authentica, et à Romanis olim coctilibus muris egregie conſtructa. Videas hic multa priſtinæ nobilitatis adhuc veſtigia: palatia immenſa aureis olim tectorum faſtidiis Romanos faſtus imitantia, eo quod à Romanis principibus primo conſtructa, et ædificiis egregiis, illuſtrata fuiſſent: turrim giganteam: thermas inſignes: templorum reliquias, et loca theatralia muris egregiis partim adhuc extantibus, omnia clauſa. Reperies ubique tam intra murorum ambitum, quam extra, ædificia ſubterranea: aquarum ductus hypogeoſque meatus. Et quod inter alia notabile cenſui, ſtuphas undique videas miro artificio conſertas, lateralibus quibuſdam à præanguſtis ſpiracuii viis occulte calorem exhalantibus." Itin. Cam. lib. 1. cap. 5.

The walls are more dilapidated than thoſe of Caerwent, but formed in the ſame manner, with fragments of ſtone bedded in cement. Near this angle, the mortar, after the Vitruvian method, not uncommon in Italy, is tempered with pounded brick *, particles of which chequer the ſurface, and are incorporated with the ſubſtance. The facings have been moſtly removed for the conſtruction of other buildings: thoſe which remain are principally of hewn grit ſtone.

The ſouth-weſtern ſide paſſes the Round Table or amphitheatre, in a direction parallel to the Uſk, and ſkirts the lawn of the abbey, now Miſs Morgan's houſe; where part has been rebuilt with the Roman facings, and part remains in its original ſtate. At the northern extremity of the Round Table field, it is interſected by the Broad way, which from its ſtraitneſs and uniform breadth, appears to have been a ſtreet leading from the fortreſs to the meads on the banks of the river. Here was probably a gateway, which ſeems to be marked by the elevations at each end of the breach. In croſſing the ſtile on the other ſide of the Broad way, Mr. Evans pointed out to me a Roman Terminus, uſed as one of the cap-ſtones, bearing the inſcription TERMIN.

From hence the line of wall re-appears, and continues along the Bear-houſe field, where a foſs is quite plain; but only detached maſſes of wall, fringed with ſhrubs, are viſible.

At the weſtern angle it turns along the ſide of the Malpas road, to the remains of a gateway leading into Goldcroft common, and proceeds in a direct line, occupied by ſeveral cottages and gardens, where the foſs is only viſible, to the turnpike, near the junction of the Uſk and Pont y Pool roads.

At the northern angle the wall forms part of the ſtable of a public houſe, called the New Inn, trends through ſeveral gardens, orchards, and tenements, is occaſionally loſt in the ſtreets and lanes, becomes again conſpicuous in the caſtle yard, and terminates in the eaſt angle, which projects over the rail road, near the foſs of the caſtle.

The line of wall from this point to the ſouth angle is curvilinear. It paſſes through the precincts, and ſkirts the foſs of the caſtle; is interſected by Bridge ſtreet,

* This circumſtance perhaps led Harris into a miſtake, and gave riſe to his aſſertion, that ranges of Roman bricks are viſible in the walls of Caerwent and Caerleon.

ſtreet, near a gate which has been recently taken down; forms the foundation of the gable end of a houſe, now occupied by Mr. Andrew Butler; paſſes through his garden; is loſt in a narrow lane, leading to the quay, and re-appears in the adjoining field, gradually riſing in height, until it ends in the ſouthern angle.

It appears from this ſurvey, that the foſs is only viſible on part of the weſtern, and the whole of the northern ſide. On the other parts it was perhaps unneceſſary, from the greater abruptneſs of the ground, or the traces of it have been obliterated by outworks and buildings.

The four principal gates ſeem to have been placed in the middle of the four ſides. The firſt in Bridge ſtreet, the ſecond at the Broad way, the third leading into the Newport high road, which was the ſite of the Julia Strata, and the fourth into Mill ſtreet, through which the Roman road paſſed to Gobannium or Abergavenny.

There is a ſtriking peculiarity in the ſituation of the ancient Roman fortreſs, which has hitherto eſcaped the notice of travellers, and would have eſcaped mine, had not Mr. Evans pointed it out to me. Caerleon appears on a ſuperficial view to occupy a flat poſition, but in fact, that portion of the preſent town, which is incloſed by the Roman walls, is placed on a gentle riſe, connected at one extremity with the lower part of the eminence, on which the encampment of the Lodge is ſituated. This riſe ſhelves on the weſt and ſouth ſides towards the Uſk, and on the eaſt towards the Avon Lwyd, and ſeems to have formed a tongue of land, which before the draining of the meadows, was probably a kind of peninſula. Hence the fortreſs, from its poſition on a riſe between two rivers, and almoſt ſurrounded with marſhy ground, was a place of conſiderable ſtrength, and well calculated to become the primary ſtation of the Romans in Britannia Secundæ.

The æra in which the Roman fortreſs was built, cannot be aſcertained with preciſion; conjectures may be formed, and Horſley, whoſe opinion deſerves great weight, ſuppoſes that the Romans firſt ſettled here in the reign of Antoninus Pius. It is mentioned in Antonine's Itinerary; and the numerous coins of the

early emperors, which have been here diſcovered, ſeem to confirm this opinion. The walls however appear to have been conſtructed under the lower empire.

According to Richard of Cirenceſter, Caerleon was a Roman colony, and the primary ſtation in the country of the Silures; circumſtances which ſufficiently account for its extent and magnificence.

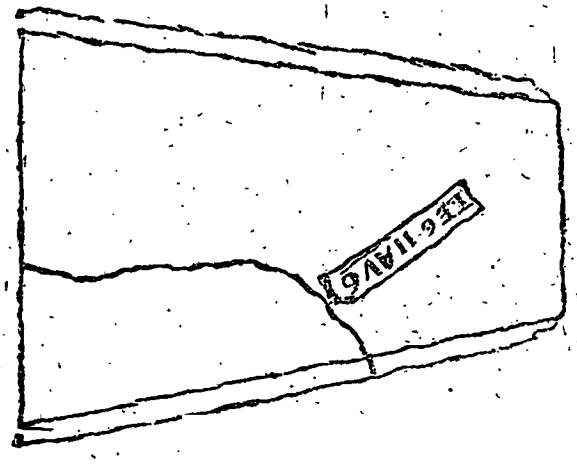
In a field cloſe to the banks of the Uſk, and near the ſouth-weſt ſide of the wall, is an oval concavity, meaſuring ſeventy-four yards by ſixty-four, and ſix in depth. The ſides are gently ſloping, and covered, as well as the bottom, with turf. It is called by the natives Arthur's Round Table; but is undoubtedly the ſite of a Roman amphitheatre. According to the prevailing opinion, it was merely a campeſtrian amphitheatre, hollowed in the ground, and ſurrounded with banks of earth, in the ſides of which turf ſeats were formed for the ſpectators. This opinion is however diſproved by the expreſs aſſertions of Giraldus, who deſcribes the walls as ſtanding in his time. The author of the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire alſo obſerves, "in 1706 a figure of Diana, with her treſſes and creſcent, moulded in alabaſter, was found *near a prodigious foundation wall of freeſtone, on the ſouth ſide of King Arthur's Round Table, which was very wide, and ſuppoſed to be one ſide of a Roman amphitheatre.*" Within the memory likewiſe of many perſons now living, ſtone ſeats were diſcovered on opening the ſides of the concavity.

That part of Caerleon incloſed by the walls, was the ſite of the ancient camp or fortreſs; but the ſuburbs extended to a conſiderable diſtance. As I walked along the banks of the Uſk, beyond the Bear-houſe field, near half a mile to the weſt of the town, I obſerved great quantities of Roman bricks and hollow tiles. Theſe ſuburbs are ſaid to have occupied both ſides of the river. According to tradition, they compriſed a circumference of not leſs than nine miles, and reached as far as Chriſtchurch and St. Julian's; and the village on the ſouthern ſide of the bridge, ſtill bears the old Roman name of *Ultra Pontem.* Large foundations have likewiſe been diſcovered in the elevated grounds to the north and north-weſt of the walls, particularly beyond the ſkirts of Goldcroft common.

Moſt

Moſt of the Roman antiquities diſcovered at Caerleon have been removed from the place. The only ſpecimens now remaining, are a few coins in the poſſeſſion of Miſs Morgan, which on account of her abſence I could not inſpect; a rude ſculpture, in baſſo relievo, of a Venus Marina holding a dolphin in her hand, of which Mr. Wyndham has given an etching in his tour, and an antique intaglio.

This intaglio is a cornelian ſeal ſet like a ring, and repreſenting the figure of Hercules ſtrangling the Nemean lion. It is very ſmall, but not ill executed. According to Mr. Wyndham, who ſaw it ſoon after it was diſcovered, and extols its workmanſhip, it belonged to Mr. Norman, maltſter. Mr. Strange ſays, that it was found in digging the foundation of a cellar, oppoſite the White Hart public houſe. An engraving of it is given in the Archæologia. It is now the property of Mr. Nichols, a gentleman reſident at Caerleon, who readily permitted the inſpection, and to whom I was indebted, not only for his polite attentions, but for much information, which he was ſo obliging as to communicate. Pritchet the ſhoemaker, who poſſeſſed the large hollow tile, which Mr. Wyndham deſcribes as part of a ſarcophagus, was alive at the time of my firſt journey to Caerleon. He was eighty-five, and died in the winter of 1798. He informed me, that in digging his garden, he had diſcovered many coins and rings, all of which he had diſpoſed of; among the coins he mentioned a Julius Cæſar, and a Druſilla, in high preſervation. The ſhape of the tile is given in the following ſketch: It is 23 inches in length, and 16 in its greateſt breadth.



The

The four columns of freeſtone which ſupport the market-houſe, probably belonged to ſome Roman ſtructure. They are of the Tuſcan order, low and maſſive. In repairing the ſtreets of Caerleon, about 1784, two baſes of the ſame dimenſions, materials, and workmanſhip as thoſe of the columns, were diſcovered near the houſe now occupied by Mr. Blanning, which ſtands cloſe to the ancient walls *.

In digging ſome foundations, three cap-ſtones of a cornice, which appeared to have been placed at the angle of a building, were diſcovered. According to Mr. Evans, who examined them, they were of freeſtone, and ſcarcely inferior, in elegance of workmanſhip, to the angular cornices in the ruins of Palmyra. Theſe fragments have been conſidered by ſome perſons as parts of the ancient cathedral; but were moſt probably the remains of a ſplendid Roman temple.

Great quantities of Roman bricks, coins, and jaſper teſſeræ, or the ſquare dies which formed the moſaic pavements, have been found at St. Julian's and Penros, and ſeem to point out thoſe places as the ſite of ſome magnificent manſions. They were probably the villas of the Roman præfects, or generals. This opinion, ſuggeſted by Mr. Evans, is corroborated by the veſtiges of two cauſeways; one leading to Pont Saturn, in the road to Penros, and the other through the wood of St. Julian's.

According to the conjectures of ſome antiquaries, the Broad way led to the ancient quay; and this opinion has been ſupported by accounts of iron rings and ſtaples for moorings, fixed in the rocks on the oppoſite bank. But I could not learn that the ſmalleſt veſtiges of foundations, indicating the exiſtence of a quay, were ever diſcovered in theſe parts; and the accounts of rings and ſtaples, are mere idle and traditionary reports †.

The gardens and orchards of Caerleon, are ſtrewed with innumerable quantities of cinders, containing much iron, which are called by the natives Roman cinders,

* From Mr. Evans, who examined and meaſured them.

† The abſurdity of theſe reports is evident, as no iron can reſiſt the corroſion of the marine ſalt for ten years, much leſs for 1300. Should any ſuch rings or ſtaples have been found, towards the latter end of the laſt century, they muſt have been ſtays for fiſhing boats; becauſe *there* was the principal fiſhery on the river Uſk, when the Herberts poſſeſſed St. Julian's.

cinders, and are conſidered as pieces of ore, imperfectly ſmelted by the Romans. Theſe fragments are found in many places which were occupied by the Romans; before the introduction of the Lancaſhire ore, they were conveyed to the iron works, and by means of the improved ſtate of modern machinery, yielded a conſiderable portion of metal. In ſome parts of Monmouthſhire, not far removed from the iron works, the profit drawn from the Roman cinders has almoſt defrayed the purchaſe of the land.

Without the Roman fortreſs, we traced ſeveral outworks of conſiderable ſtrength. Near the eaſtern angle in Mill ſtreet, are remains of a line of ancient wall, with the foundation of a gateway, running nearly parallel to the Roman fortifications; but not ſufficient to aſcertain their purport.

It is more difficult to trace the ruins of the celebrated caſtle, which reſiſted ſo many aſſaults, while the town, notwithſtanding its Roman fortifications, ſurrendered to each invader. The caſtle works extended in a line between the ſouth ſide of the wall and the Uſk, beyond a round tower near the Hanbury Arms, and terminated at the remains of two round towers or baſtions, which were built upon the rocks on the verge of the river. According to Domeſday book, there was a caſtle in Caerleon at the time of the conqueſt. Parts of the ancient works ſtill remain, particularly the tower near the Hanbury Arms, which exhibits in its circularly arched doorway, and embraſures, the early ſtyle of fortification: it is now pierced with modern windows, and much altered from its original ſtate. The thickneſs of the walls, the bold ſweep of the arches, and the compoſition of the cement, according to the Vitruvian method, have led ſome perſons to ſuppoſe it a Roman ſtructure, which was afterwards included in the works of the caſtle.

There are no apparent remains of the tower called by Giraldus *gigantic*; but the mound on which it was conſtructed is ſtill entire. It is an artificial eminence of conſiderable height, 300 yards in circumference at the baſe, and 90 at the ſummit; it ſtands between the banks of the Uſk, and the ſouthern ſide of the wall, and is generally ſuppoſed to be the ſite of the Norman keep or citadel, and poſterior to the other works. In the time of Leland the ruins were very

conſiderable; and Churchyard, who wrote in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, deſcribed it, as

" A caſtle very old,
" That may not be forgot,
" It ſtands upon a forced hill,
" Not far from flowing flood*."

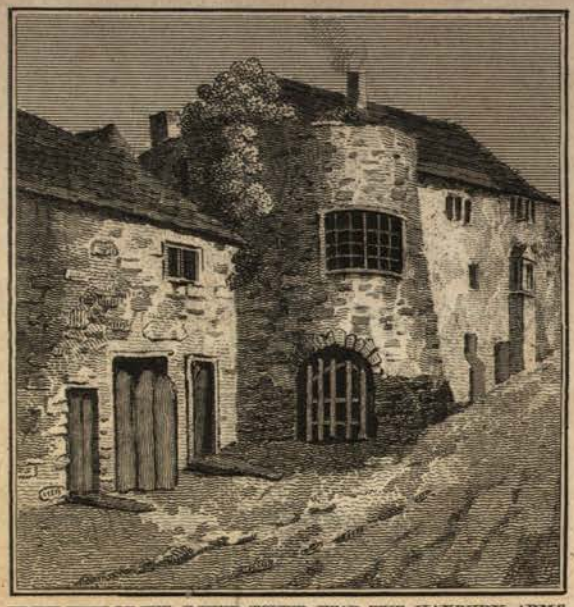
In the middle of this century, the walls of the tower were not leſs than forty feet in height; but they were looſened by the ſevere effects of the froſt in 1739, and fell down in enormous fragments †. Within the memory of the oldeſt inhabitants were remains of dilapidated buildings at the bottom, and a flight of ſtone ſteps. During my laſt excurſion, ſome maſſive foundations were diſcovered towards the ſummit. The greater part had been removed by the lord of the manor, and ſold to Mr. Williams, a currier, who had built a houſe with the materials. The remains which I obſerved were not leſs than twenty feet in depth, ten in breadth, and thirty in length; the whole forming a ſolid and compact maſs, of large ſtones bedded in mortar, which the workmen had great difficulty in ſeparating. I noticed among the fragments, much ſlate, many glazed pantiles, and numerous pieces of burnt and charred wood, which ſeem to imply, that part of the building had been deſtroyed by fire.

From the top of this eminence, the wild and beautiful environs of Caerleon are ſeen to the greateſt advantage. The principal objects are the town, gently riſing at the extremity of an oval vale; the bridge, ſupported by lofty and ſlender piles; the rapid Uſk, flowing through fertile meadows; the ſloping hills, richly clothed with wood; and Chriſtchurch, towering like a cathedral, on the brow of an overhanging eminence.

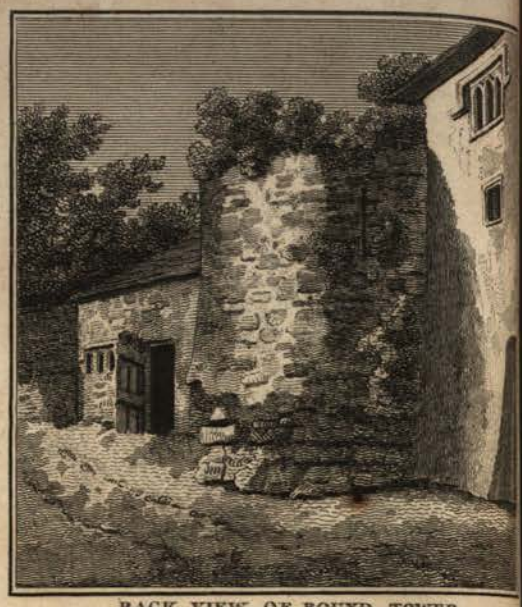
Deſcending from the mount, and tracing the foſs, I obſerved, towards its ſouth-weſtern ſide, heaps of Roman bricks and tiles, which had been recently dug up in making excavations. Among theſe were ſome fragments of large bricks,

* The Worthines of Wales. p. 24.

† The late Mr. Thomas Norman told Mr. Evans, that his father uſed when a boy, at the latter end of the laſt century, to mount the ſummit of the walls, and could ſee from thence the hills of Somerſet, over the Severn. His father's name was Walter Norman, and he died extremely old, about the year 1762.

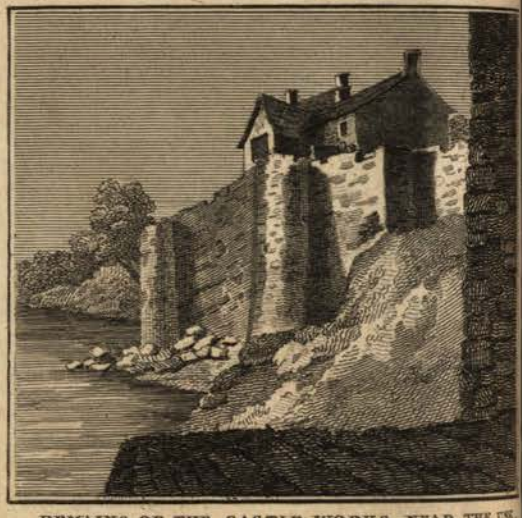


FRONT VIEW OF THE ROUND TOWER NEAR THE HANBURY ARMS



BACK VIEW OF ROUND TOWER.

RUINS NEAR THE BRIDGE.



REMAINS OF THE CASTLE WORKS NEAR THE USK.

T. Tudor del.t

SOUTH ANGLE OF THE ROMAN WALLS AT CAERLEON.

bricks, two feet ſquare, and two inches in thickneſs. They formed part of a Roman ſarcophagus, which meaſured ſix feet and a half in length. It was found on the ſide of the mount, ſeveral feet above the ground; and Mr. Blanning, who politely accompanied me, and ſupplied me with theſe particulars, pointed out the place where it had been diſcovered, which was apparent from the red colour communicated by the bricks to the ſurface. The ſituation of this ſarcophagus ſeems to indicate, that the lower part of the mount exiſted in the time of the Romans, and was a continuation of a natural ridge, which ſtretches nearly the ſame height, not far from the banks of the Uſk, and that the upper part was raiſed, ſince the depoſition of the ſarcophagus, to its preſent elevation.

In the ſtreet leading from the bridge, and near the paſſage to the caſtle, are the ruins of a portal, which ſeems to have once formed the entrance of the caſtle works. Parts of a round tower ſtill remain, with the groove for a portcullis, and a public houſe called the Gate-houſe marks its ſituation *.

Cloſe to the ſouthern extremity of the bridge, in the diſtrict ſometimes called the village of Caerleon, and ſometimes diſtinguiſhed by the Roman appellation of Ultra Pontem, are the ruins of an ancient fort, intended for the purpoſe of guarding the paſſage over the river. Groſe has given an engraving as it exiſted in 1778, and from the roundneſs of the arches and the mode of conſtruction, concludes that it was a Roman edifice; but the dilapidated ſtate of the work renders it difficult to aſcertain its exact form or æra.

As it was the invariable cuſtom of the Romans to conſtruct fortified camps near their principal ſtations, for airing the troops, exploratory purpoſes, ſecuring convoys, and guarding cattle, we ſhould expect to find traces of their ancient encampments in the neighbourhood of Caerleon. The remains of four encampments, two on the north and two on the ſouth ſide of the Uſk, are ſtill viſible in the vicinity; but neither of them ſeems to bear a poſitive Roman character.

* At the time of my laſt excurſion theſe remains were taking down.

The moſt remarkable of theſe is the encampment of the Lodge, in the old park of Lantarnam, near a mile to the north-weſt of Caerleon, anciently called BELLINGSTOCKE, which is ſuppoſed by Harris to have been the æſtiva or ſummer camp of the ſecond legion: it is of an oval, or rather an elliptical ſhape, large dimenſions, and ſurrounded with double ramparts, excepting to the ſouth-weſt, where there a quadruple line of ramparts and ditches *. The entrenchments are in ſome places not leſs than thirty feet in depth. The entrance is to the weſt, and defended by a tumulus, twelve yards in height, which is placed on the inner rampart. It bears more the appearance of a Britiſh, than of a Roman encampment; and if I may be allowed a conjecture, was the ſite of the Britiſh town on the arrival of the Romans. This conjecture is ſtrengthened by the authority of an ancient chronicle † of the kings of the iſle of Britain, which mentions the exiſtence of a Britiſh town built by Beli, on the banks of the Wyſc, or Uſk.

Probably

* For the plan of this and the three other camps, ſee the annexed Engraving.

† In the Myvyrian Archæology of Wales, as Mr. Owen informs me, are three copies of this chronicle, called Brut Breninod ynys Prydain, collated and printed on the ſame page. He was ſo obliging as to favour me with a tranſlation of a paſſage of each.

From the Second Copy.

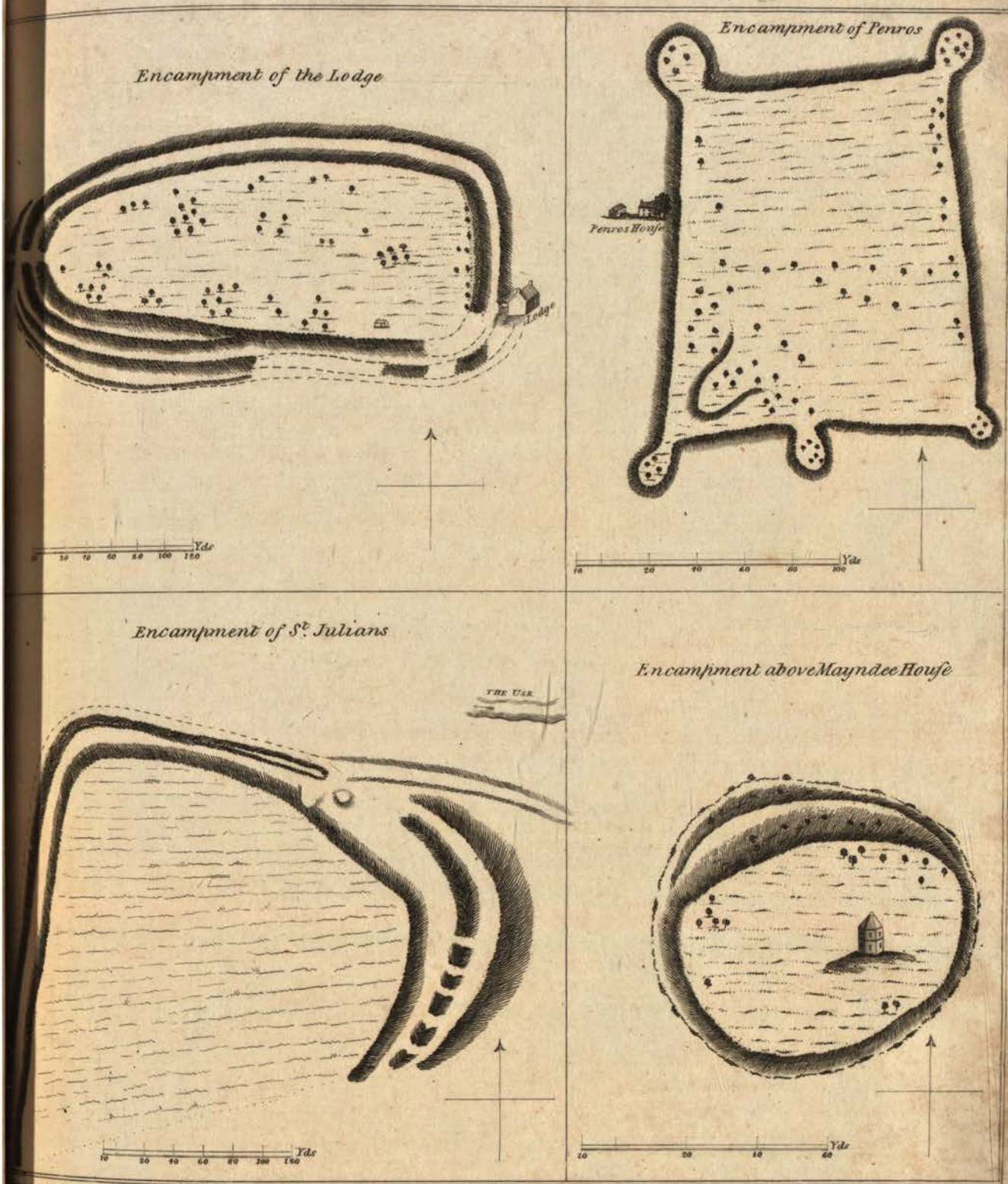
"After obtaining that victory, Bran remained emperor in Rome, ſubduing the people through unheard of cruelty; and whoſoever would know his acts, and his end, the hiſtories of the men of Rome declare them; therefore have I refrained from them; for too much length and tedioufneſs ſhould I give to this work, if I were to write them; and I ſhould be departing from my own plan and work by ſo doing. And then Beli returned to the iſle of Britain; and through peace and tranquillity he completed the days of his life, and governed the country. And he repaired the fortreſſes that had decayed; and built other new ones; and in thoſe times amongſt others of his acts, he built a fortreſs on the river Wyſc, near the ſea of Havren, which was called through a length of time Caer Wyſc, and that was the archbiſhop-houſe of Dyved; and after the coming of the men of Rome into the iſland, that name was done away, and it was called Caer Llion, for there they were wont to dwell in the winter."

Firſt Copy.

"He built a fortreſs on the banks of the river Wyſc, and there was the archbiſhop-houſe of Dyved (Dimetia). And after the coming of the men of Rome into this iſland, it came to be called Caerllion, for there they were wont to remain during the winter."

Third Copy.

"And then he built a fortreſs and city on the river Wyſc, which was called through a long time Caer Wyſc; and there afterwards was the third archbiſhoprick of the iſle of Britain; and after the coming of the men of Rome to this iſland, it was called Caer Llion or Wyſc." See alſo a ſimilar paſſage in Geoffrey of Monmouth, Book iii. Chap. 10. An ancient manuſcript, being a catalogue of the moſt renowned kings of Britain, founders of cities, contains the following paſſage, communicated likewiſe by Mr. Owen: "Beli the ſon of Dyvnwal Moel Mud, made a city on "the banks of the river Wyſg, and he called it Caer "Llion on Wyſg; and that was anciently the prin-"cipal town in the iſland."



Hardinge sc

Pub. 1 July, 1800, by Cadell & Davies Strand

Probably this Britiſh fortreſs afterwards became a ſummer camp of the Romans, was again a ſtrong poſt of the Britons on their departure, and ſubſequently occupied by the different nations who beſieged Caerleon. The depth of the ditches, and height of the vallum, ſeem to indicate a Saxon ſtation, as their camps are diſtinguiſhed by thoſe peculiarities. Perhaps Harold, on his conqueſt of lower Gwent, here eſtabliſhed himſelf when he inveſted Caerleon, as it was a place of great importance, either for the defence or attack of the town. The Normans likewiſe did not omit to ſeize this poſt, called by Churchyard "*Caerleon's hope* *," in the numerous aſſaults which Caerleon ſuſtained in feudal times.

The ſecond encampment, on the north ſide of the Uſk, is at Penros, an eminence above the Avon Lwyd, to the north-eaſt of Caerleon; it is environed only by a ſingle rampart, and the form is nearly ſquare, with five baſtions. From the remains found at Penros, it may have been alſo the ſite of a Roman camp, which was altered and ſtrengthened with baſtions during the civil wars of the laſt century.

The third encampment, to the ſouth of the Uſk, is near the high road leading from Caerwent to Newport, above Mayndee, the ſeat of William Kemeys, eſq. who has erected a ſummer-houſe in the midſt of the area, which commands a ſingular and beautiful proſpect. It is a ſmall circular entrenchment, and could only be calculated for exploratory purpoſes, or guarding cattle.

The fourth camp is in the wood of St. Julian's, above the Uſk. As I was ſeveral times prevented by bad weather from viſiting it, I ſhall only obſerve, that from the plan and deſcription given by Mr. Morrice, who took the ſurvey, it was probably a Saxon encampment, formed by Harold to command the river, and to cut off all communication between Caerleon and the ſouth, as the camp at the Lodge did to the north. It certainly could never be intended as a defence of Caerleon, becauſe the fartheſt ſide has no rampart or ditch, and is only ſecured by a natural ravine, at ſome diſtance from the camp. It muſt have been often occupied by the Anglo Normans, who frequently beſieged and poſſeſſed themſelves of Caerleon.

* Worthines of Wales, p. 48.

CHAPTER II.

History of Caerleon after the Departure of the Romans.—King Arthur.—Knights of the Round Table.—Church of St. Cadoc.—Ancient Abbey.—Caſtle.—Modern Hiſtory, and preſent State of Caerleon.—Bridge.—Singular Eſcape of Mrs. Williams.

SOON after the departure of the Romans from Britain, the reports of tradition and the pages of romance, have aſſigned to Caerleon a ſtill greater ſplendour and importance than under their domination. It is ſuppoſed to have been the metropolis of the Britiſh empire; the favourite reſidence of the renowned king Arthur, and his knights of the round table.

Arthur is ſaid to have flouriſhed in the ſixth century, and is uſually called the fourth of that race of kings, who are known by the name of the Armorican line, and from whom the inhabitants of Britain are ſtyled Armorican Britons. Although numerous authors of great talents have written in favour of Arthur, and many hiſtorians have aſſented to the proofs which they have advanced, yet their opinions are diſcordant and contradictory. They only agree in ſupporting his exiſtence, but differ in the moſt material circumſtances of his lineage, birth, life, and death. The incredible accounts of the Britiſh hero given by Geoffrey of Monmouth, have caſt an air of fable over his real exploits, and rendered even his exiſtence ſuſpected.

The natives of Caerleon however, are not inclined to this opinion: they point out the remains of the Roman amphitheatre, under the name of Arthur's Round Table, from a ſuppoſition that a military order was here inſtituted, which firſt raiſed the ſprit of chivalry in Europe. Arthur and his knights are recorded to have held their feaſts within the precincts of this area, ſeated at a round table, for the purpoſe of promoting ſocial intercourſe, and ſuperſeding the diſtinctions

of ſtate. But this legend has no foundation in hiſtory; and the articles of the order, which have been gravely quoted as authentic, diſplay an internal evidence of forgery; they contain notions of chivalry, honour, and gallantry, which did not in that age prevail in any country of Europe *.

The number of theſe heroes is no leſs uncertain than their hiſtory; they increaſe as rapidly as Falſtaff's men of buckram. Some, with Dryden, in the beautiful fable of the flower and the leaf, limit the number to twelve:

" Who bear the bow were knights in Arthur's reign;
" TWELVE they, and twelve the knights of Charlemagne."

Others make them twenty-four; while the ballad of the noble acts of king Arthur extends their number from fifty to ſixty-five:

" Then into Britain ſtrait he came,
" Where fifty good and able
" Knights then repaired unto him,
" Which were of the round table."

But afterwards, ſpeaking of ſir Launcelot du Lake, it is ſaid:

" Who has in priſon THREESCORE knights,
" And FOUR that he had wound;
" Knights of king Arthur's court they be,
" And of his table round."

Boiſſeau, in his Promptuaire Armoriale, after reciting the names of the firſt twenty-four knights, mentions one hundred and twenty-nine more, and gives a formal blazon of their arms.

On the death of Arthur, the order was ſuppoſed to be extinguiſhed; for it is related, that moſt of his knights companions in arms periſhed in the fatal battle of Camblun, where he received his mortal wound. The order fell into diſrepute among the Saxons, but abroad a new phœnix aroſe from its aſhes, and produced the twelve peers and *table ronde* of Charlemagne.

On

* Such as to advance the reputation of honour, to deliver priſoners, to ranſom captives, to revenge all complaints made at the court of their mighty king, of perjury and oppreſſion, to protect widows and maids, to avenge the injuries or diſhonour offered to ladies, gentlewomen, widows, or maids, and to inform young princes, lords, and gentlemen, in the orders and exerciſes of arms, for the purpoſe of avoiding idleneſs, and increaſing the honour of knighthood or chivalry. Enderbie.

On the Norman conqueſt, and the overthrow of the Saxon dominion, king Arthur's memory acquired freſh renown in England. The round table roſe into great eſtimation, and was introduced at the grand martial exerciſes called haſtiludes, tilts, or tournaments, which were much encouraged by king Richard the firſt, " as well " as Aſhmole ſays, " for the delight of men inclined to military actions, and increaſing of their ſkill in their management of arms, as in memorial or remembrance, that Arthur had erected an order of knighthood *." The cuſtom was adopted by king Stephen, and continued by ſeveral of his ſucceſſors. Edward the firſt, in particular, gave a new ſplendour to the ſolemnity, when, on the conqueſt of Wales, he fixed his temporary reſidence at Caernarvon: with a view to conciliate the affections of his new ſubjects, who fondly cheriſhed the memory of Arthur, and ſuperſtitiouſly believed that he would re-appear, and eſtabliſh the ſeat of empire at Caerleon †, he held a round table, and celebrated it with dance and tournament.

At length Edward the third, an illuſtrious example and patron of chivalry, availed himſelf of the high notions entertained of Arthur and the knights of the round table, to eſtabliſh a ſimilar fraternity. He kept a ſolemn tournament at his beloved Windſor, received the knights who flocked from all quarters of Europe at a round table, and ordered the ſolemnity to be repeated at Windſor every Whitſuntide. The ſplendour of this meeting, and the conſequence which Edward derived from it in every court of Europe, induced alſo Philip of Valois to hold a round table at Paris. This competition inflamed the ſpirit of chivalry, inceaſed the reputation of the round table, and occaſioned the inſtitution of the order of the garter; intended, according to the ſpirit of the times, " to adorn martial virtue with honour, rewards, and ſplendour ‡."

Caerleon

* Aſhmole's Hiſtory of the Order of the Garter.

† The romances of the bards were filled with predictions that Arthur was not dead, but would return again and re-eſtabliſh the Britiſh empire, to which Daniel Lydgate alludes:

" He is a king crowned in Faerie,
" With ſceptor and ſword, and with his regalty,
" Shall reſort our lord and ſovereigne,
" Out of Faerie and reigne in Brittaine;
" And repaire again the round table.
" By propheey Merlin ſet the date,
" Among princes king incomparable,
" His ſeat again Caerlion to tranſlate,
" The parc has ſufferen ſponne ſo his fate,
" His epitaph recordeth ſo certaine,
" Here lieth king Arthur that ſhall raigne againe."

‡ Aſhmole's Hiſtory of the Order of the Garter, Selden's Notes on Drayton's Poly Albion, Warton's Eſſay

Caerleon has alſo been deſcribed as no leſs pre-eminent in learning, than in extent and magnificence. On the authority of an ancient author, Alexander Elſebienſis, and of Geoffrey of Monmouth, Caerleon is ſaid to have contained, at the time of the firſt Saxon invaſion, a ſchool of two hundred aſtronomers. Theſe idle aſſertions are credited even by Camden; and an obſcure inſcription in the church of Uſk *, has been perverted into an epitaph on Seliff Sunjwr, the Solomon of theſe aſtronomers.

Caerleon is equally pre-eminent in the annals of the church: here St. Julius and St. Aaron are ſaid to have ſuffered martyrdom, and two chapels were erected to their honour; one near the preſent ſite of St. Julian's, to which it communicated the name, and the other at Penros, in the vicinity of the town. A third chapel was dedicated to St. Alban, another martyr, which was conſtructed on an eminence to the eaſt of Caerleon, overlooking the Uſk. A yew tree marks the ſite; an adjoining piece of land is ſtill called the chapel yard, and in 1785 ſeveral ſtone coffins were diſcovered in digging for the foundations of a new houſe.

In its ſplendid days, Caerleon enjoyed the honour of being the metropolitan ſee of Wales. According to the annals of the church, Dubricius, the great opponent of the Pelagian hereſy, was the firſt archbiſhop. He was ſucceeded by St. David, called by biſhop Godwin uncle of king Arthur, and ſon of Zanctus, a prince of Wales, who removed the ſee from Caerleon to Menevia, which from him was called St. David's. The reaſon for this tranſlation, and the extraordinary accounts of his ſanctity, are detailed by biſhop Godwin †.

No

Eſſay on Engliſh Poetry, paſſim. Hiſtory of Windſor.

* See chapter 14.

† "It ſeemeth he miſliked the frequency of people at Caerlegion, as a means to withdraw him from contemplation; whereunto that he might be more free, he made choice of this place for a ſee, rather than for any fitneſſe of the ſame otherwiſe. He ſate long, to witte, 65 yeeres, and died at laſt ann. 642, (having firſt built twelve monaſteries in the countrey thereabout) being now 146 yeeres of age, as Bale out of the Britiſh hiſtories reporteth. He was buried in his owne cathedrall church, and many hundreth yeeres after canoniſed a ſaint by pope Calixtus the ſecond. Many things are reported of him incredible, and therefore not worth rehearſing, although I doubt not but God afforded many miracles to the firſt infancy of our church; neither therefore would I be ſo peremptory in derogating too much from ſuch reports, as we ſee no reaſon why they may not be true. Of him they ſay, that his birth

No remains of the ancient cathedral exiſt. The preſent church was conſtructed in the Norman æra, and is dedicated to St. Cadoc, from whom it is called in Welſh, Langattoc, or the church of St. Cadoc *. It is built with coarſe materials, and plaiſtered, and conſiſts of a nave, two aiſles and chancel; the tower is high and maſſive. The inſide exhibits an elegant ſpecimen of gothic architecture; and the old clerk exultingly told me, that the biſhop of Landaff at one of his viſitations, had called it the handſomeſt church in his diocese. He likewiſe pointed out to me a large bone with an inſcription: "This bone is part of a rib which has been preſerved in this church many years." He boaſted that it was part of the rib of the dun cow ſlain by Guy earl of Warwick; but in fact it is half the rib of a ſmall whale.

On expreſſing my ſatisfaction at the beauty and neatneſs of the church, the old clerk expatiated on the bounty of Mr. Williams, a native of Caerleon, who bequeathed £. 1,000 for the purpoſe of repairing it, and to whoſe memory the natives are much attached for the eſtabliſhment of a free-ſchool.

Charles Williams, eſq. was born and educated at Caerleon, and lived in his native town, until an unfortunate rencontre with his couſin Mr. Morgan of Penros, which terminated in the death of the latter, compelled him to quit his country. He fled to Smyrna, and after acquiring a conſiderable fortune by trade,

birth was foretold 30 yeeres beforehand; that he was alwaies attended by an angell that kept him company; that he beſtowed upon the waters at Bathe that extraordinary heate they have; and (to repeat no more, for this is much more than any diſcrete man will believe) that upon a time preaching to a great multitude of people at Brevy, the plaine ground grew up in their ſight, and increaſed under his feete unto a pretty hillock." Godwin's Catalogue of the Biſhops, p. 414.

* "St. Cadocus, or St. Cadoc, was ſon to Gunleus or St. Woolos, by his wife Gladuſa, daughter of Braghan, whoſe name was given to the province now called Brecknockſhire. On his father's abdication, Cadoc, who was his eldeſt ſon, ſucceeded in the government; but not long after followed his example, and embracing a religious life, put himſelf under the direction of St. Tathai, an Iriſh monk, who had opened a famous ſchool at Gwent, the ancient Venta Silurum of the Romans, afterwards a biſhop's ſee, now in ruins in Monmouthſhire. Our ſaint made ſuch progreſs both in learning and virtue, that when he returned into Glamorganſhire, his own country, he ſpread on every ſide the rays of his wiſdom and ſanctity. Here, three miles from Cowbridge, he built a church and a monaſtery, which was called Llancarvan; the ſchool that he eſtabliſhed in this place, became moſt illuſtrious and fruitful in great and holy men. St. Cadoc flouriſhed in the beginning of the ſixth century, and was ſucceeded in the abbacy of Llancarvan by Ellenius, 'an excellent diſciple of an excellent maſter,' ſays Leland." Lives of the Saints, vol 1. p. 272.

trade, returned to England, in the reign of king William, and lived in London incognito. He increaſed his fortune by loans to government, and by purchaſing in the funds, which were recently eſtabliſhed. He died in 1720, aged eighty-ſeven, and after bequeathing the bulk of his fortune to the family of Hanbury, left conſiderable legacies for the advantage and improvement of his native town *.

Tanner mentions a ciſtertian abbey at Caerleon, and obſerves, that king John, whilſt earl of Morton, privileged the abbot and monks to be free of paying toll at Briſtol. The quadrangular houſe belonging to Miſs Morgan, and ſome adjacent tenements, exhibit traces of the ancient ſtructure, in their gothic windows and doorways.

During the middle ages, the hiſtory of Caerleon is obſcure and uncertain. Notwithſtanding its real ſtrength under the Romans, and fabulous conſequence in the annals of romance, its name ſeldom occurs in the pages of hiſtory. Although ſpecified in the Triades as one of the thirty-three fortreſſes of Britain, it is only once mentioned by Caradoc, during the Saxon æra. He relates that Alfred the Great ſent his fleet to ſubdue Caerleon upon Uſk, but was obliged to recall it, before he had effected the conqueſt, on account of the progreſs of the Danes †. It may have been forced and pillaged by the Saxons in their predatory incurſions, and was probably taken by Harold, when he overran this part of Gwent, and built his palace at Portſcwit.

At the time of the conqueſt, there is much doubt and uncertainty concerning its real ſituation. According to Domeſday Book, William de Scohies ‡, a great

* See the chapter on Pont y Pool, and on the Memoirs of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams.

† Powell's Tranſlation, p. 87.

‡ Caerleon is twice mentioned in Domeſday Book, the firſt time in the article of Gloceſterſhire, from which it ſhould ſeem, that the revenues of Caerleon, one carucate of land there, and ſeven fiſheries in the Wye and the Uſk, produced 7*l.* 10*s.* "Ints redditionem de Carleion et I. carrucatam quæ ibi eſt, et VII. piſcarias in Waie et Huſchæ exeunt VII lib. et X. ſolid." p. 162. It is again mentioned under Hereſordſhire; among the lands poſſeſſed by William de Scohies are eight carucates within the precincts of the caſtle of Caerleon.

Terra Witti de Scohies.

Witts de Scohies tenet VIII. caracutas terræ in Caſtellaria de Carlion et Turſtin tenet de illo. Ibi habet in dominio unam caracutam, et III. Walenſes lege Walenſi viventes cum III. caracutis et II. bordariis cum dimedio caracutæ et reddt. IIII. ſextars mellis. Ibi II. ſervi et una ancilla.

Hæc terra waſta erat temporæ regis Edwardi et quandò Wilhelmus recepit modo vat XL. ſol.

a great Norman chieftain, held of the crown part of the demeſnes belonging to the caſtle of Caerleon, which are called waſte lands in the time of Edward the Confeſſor; but whether he occupied the caſtle, or poſſeſſed the entire lordſhip of Caerleon is not aſcertained.

Soon after this period the hiſtory becomes leſs doubtful. Before the conſtruction of the caſtle at Newport, there was no other fortreſs of conſiderable ſtrength between Chepſtow and Caerdiff; Caerleon, therefore, was the object of contention between the Engliſh and Welſh, and ſecured to its poſſeſſor the dominion of an extenſive region. It was for ſome time the reſidence of the line of petty chiefs who were deſcended from Griffith prince of South Wales, and ſtyled themſelves kings of Gwent, and lords of Caerleon: at another time it was wreſted from them, and became the ſeat of the Anglo-Norman barons. Being repeatedly demoliſhed in theſe deſtructive contentions, the citadel was built by the Anglo-Normans, which rendered the caſtle a ſtronger and more permanent place of defence; and frequent accounts of its obſtinate reſiſtance are recorded in the annals of the times.

Towards the beginning of the twelfth century, Caerleon was poſſeſſed by Owen ſurnamed Wan, or the feeble, from whom it was conquered by Robert de Chandos, founder of Goldcliff Priory. According to an old deed cited by Dugdale, among other poſſeſſions, he aſſigned to the monks the tythes of a mill and an orchard at Caerleon, together with the churches of St. Julius, St. Aaron, and St. Alban, and their appurtenances *. From Robert de Chandos Caerleon was recovered by Jorwerth and Morgan the ſons of Owen; was afterwards taken by William earl of Gloceſter and lord of Newport, but again re-conquered by Jorwerth.

Caradoc deſcribes it as an object of contention between Jorwerth and Henry the ſecond, who in his progreſs to Ireland in 1171, ſeiſed and garriſoned the town and caſtle. In a ſubſequent year, Henry being involved in a conteſt with his ſons, Jorwerth inveſted Caerleon, and after an obſtinate reſiſtance forced the town,

* There is an obſcurity in this paſſage, which ſeems to imply, that there was but one church dedicated to the three ſaints; "et eccleſiam ſancti Julii et Aaron atque Alban, cum pertinenciis ſuis." Dugdale's Monaſticon, vol. 2. p. 904.

town, and obtained by compoſition the ſurrender of the caſtle. Animated with this ſucceſs, his ſon Howel reduced the greater part of Nether-went, and compelled the inhabitants to withdraw their allegiance from the king of England. Jorwerth, however, did not long enjoy this independance, for he was treacherouſly ſeiſed by Rhys prince of South Wales, and conveyed to the king at Gloceſter. Henry treated his priſoner with unexpected clemency, and Jorwerth, after doing homage, had livery of the caſtle and lordſhip of Caerleon *.

Being again alternately occupied and ravaged by both parties, Caerleon was not permanently poſſeſſed by the Engliſh, until the reduction of Wales by Edward the firſt; when the puiſſant family of Clare re-entered into poſſeſſion, in virtue of their deſcent from Amicia, ſole daughter and heireſs of William earl of Gloceſter. It came by the female line in the ſame manner as the caſtle of Uſk, through the great family of Mortimer earl of March, to Richard duke of York, whoſe right and title to the lordſhip of Caerleon, are proved in a curious deed cited by Dugdale †. From him it deſcended to his ſons Edward the fourth and Richard the third, and continued for ſome time in the crown. The lordſhip of Caerleon was afterwards poſſeſſed by the branch of the Morgan family ſeated at Lantarnam, was left by one of the coheireſſes of that family to John Howe, eſq. father of the firſt lord Chedworth, purchaſed by Mr. Burgh, and conveyed by his niece to Mr. Blanning, the preſent proprietor.

According to tradition, the lordſhip of Caerleon once extended as far as the neighbourhood of Chepſtow, comprehending the chaſe of Wentwood, and other tracts of woodland and paſture; and although gradually diminiſhed by the revolutions of property, even now ſtretches in a narrow ſtrip almoſt as far as Caerwent.

The town of Caerleon is reduced, from its ancient extent and grandeur, to an

* Caradoc's Hiſtory of Wales, by Powell, p. 197. to p. 203.

† Dugdale's Monaſticon, vol. 2. p. 904. "Titulus Ricardi ducis Ebor, ad dominium de Karlyon, et patronagium prioratus de Goldclyffe." This deed enumerates the lords of Caerleon from Owen Wan to Elizabeth de Burgh, ſiſter of Gilbert de Clare, laſt earl of Gloceſter, from whom Richard duke of York was lineally deſcended. See alſo Carta Regis Edwardi I. confirmans donationem Roberti de Chandos, vol. 1. p. 590. and Carta Regis Johannis, p. 591. See the pedigree of the deſcendants of Gilbert the firſt earl of Gloceſter, in the chapter on Uſk.

an inconſiderable place. Since the removal of the port to Newport, it is no longer the center of trade and communication, and was ſcarcely viſited even by travellers, until Mr. Wyndham firſt excited curioſity by the publication of his tour in Wales.

The number of inhabitants, including the village, or Ultra Pontem, amounts to no more than 763 *. The town contains no manufactures; but is greatly benefited by the tin works of Mr. Butler, which are eſtabliſhed in the vicinity. Theſe works are capable of manufacturing annually from 14,000 to 20,000 boxes of tin plates, containing each from 200 to 300 plates. Iron plates are rolled, alſo patent iron rods, ſhip bolts, and ſquare iron bars. The machinery of the mill is worthy of notice: it is wholly of iron; the two fly wheels, with the water wheel and their combined powers, weigh ſeventy-five tons, and make forty-five revolutions in one minute. It is propoſed to annex another ſyſtem of powers to the ſame water wheel, by which a weight of twenty tons will be added, and the whole will revolve with the ſame velocity.

The wooden bridge over the Uſk may be conſidered as ſimilar to that erected by the Romans; the frame is not unlike the carpentry of Cæſar's bridge over the Rhine, which he has deſcribed in his Commentaries, and of which Stukeley has given a plan, in the ſecond volume of his Itinerarium Curioſum. The floor, ſupported by ten lofty piers, is level, and divided by poſts and rails into rooms or beds of boards, each twelve feet in length; the apparently looſe and disjointed ſtate of the planks, and the clattering noiſe which they make, under the preſſure of a heavy weight, have not unfrequently occaſioned alarm to thoſe who are unuſed to them. Some travellers, from a ſuperficial view of the ſtructure, have aſſerted that the planks are placed looſe, to admit the tide through their interſtices when it riſes above the bridge, and which would, if they were fixed, force them from the frame and carry them away. But in fact the tide has never been known to riſe above the bridge, nor was the flooring conſtructed to obviate this inconvenience. Formerly the planks were faſtened at each extremity with iron nails; but the wood being liable to ſplit, and the

* From Mr. Evans.

R.H. del.

W.B. direx.

THE TOWN OF CAERLEON ON THE RIVER USK.

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the nails frequently forced up, by the elaſtic agitation of the beams, under the preſſure of heavy carriages, the planks were ſecured from riſing by horizontal rails, faſtened to the poſts, and prevented from ſlipping ſideways, by a peg at each end, within the rail.

The height of the water, at extraordinary tides, exceeds thirty feet, but though it has never riſen above the floor, yet the united body of a high tide, and the floods to which the Uſk is ſubject, have been known to carry away parts of the bridge. An accident of this kind which happened on the 29th of October 1772, occaſioned a ſingular event, to which I ſhould not have given credit, had it not been authenticated by the moſt reſpectable teſtimony.

As Mrs. Williams, wife of Mr. Edward Williams, brazier, was returning from the village of Caerleon to the town, at eleven o'clock at night, with a candle and lanthorn, the violence of the current forced away four piers, and a conſiderable part of the bridge. On a fragment of this maſs, conſiſting of an entire room, with the beams, poſts, and flooring, ſhe was hurried down the river; but preſerved ſufficient preſence of mind to ſupport herſelf by the railing. On arriving near St. Julian's, the candle was extinguiſhed; ſhe immediately ſcreamed for help, and was heard by ſeveral perſons, who ſtarted out of their beds to aſſiſt her; but the violence of the ſtream had already hurried her beyond their reach. During this time ſhe felt little apprehenſion, as ſhe entertained hopes of being delivered by the boatmen of Newport; her expectations were increaſed by the numerous lights which ſhe diſcerned in the houſes, and ſhe accordingly redoubled her cries for aſſiſtance, though without effect.

The fragment on which ſhe ſtood being broken to pieces againſt a pier of Newport bridge, ſhe fortunately beſtrode a beam, and after being detained for ſome minutes by the eddies at the bridge, was rapidly hurried along towards the ſea. In this perilous ſituation ſhe reſigned herſelf to her approaching fate, and addreſſing herſelf to Heaven, exclaimed, "Oh Lord, I truſt in thee, thou alone canſt ſave me."

About a mile from Newport, ſhe diſcerned a glimmering light, in a barge which was moored near the ſhore, and redoubling her cries, was heard by the maſter

maſter of the veſſel. After hailing her, and learning her ſituation, he cried out "keep up your ſpirits, and you will ſoon be out of danger," then leaping into the boat, with one of his men, rowed towards the place from whence the ſcreams proceeded; but ſome time elapſed before he overtook her, at a conſiderable diſtance from the anchorage of his barge. The night was ſo dark that they could not diſcern each other, and the ſurf ſwelling violently, the maſter repeated his exhortations, charged her to be calm, and not attempt to quit her ſtation. Fortunately a ſudden diſperſion of the clouds, enabled him to laſh the beam fore and aft to the boat. At this moment, however, her preſence of mind forſook her, and eagerly attempting to throw herſelf forward ſhe was checked by the oaths of the ſeamen, who were at length enabled to heave her into the boat; but could not diſengage themſelves from the beam, till they had almoſt reached the mouth of the Uſk. This being effected, not without great difficulty, they rowed to the ſhore, and embayed themſelves till the firſt dawn of the morning, when they conveyed her in the boat to Newport.

Though Mrs. Williams was in an advanced ſtate of pregnancy, ſhe received ſo little injury from this perilous accident, that after a few hours repoſe ſhe returned to Caerleon.

I have been thus minute in detailing the particulars of this providential eſcape, becauſe it has been related with ſo many improbable circumſtances, as to occaſion doubts of its reality. For the truth of this narrative, I can adduce the teſtimony of Mr. Jones of Clytha, Mr. Kemeys of Mayndee, and the Rev. Mr. Evans; all of whom ſoon afterwards converſed with Mrs. Williams. To Mr. Evans in particular, ſhe uniformly repeated the ſame account, and confirmed it on her death bed, with the moſt ſolemn aſſeverations.

The diſtintereſted conduct of the maſter and boatman ought not to be omitted: notwithſtanding the peril to which they were expoſed, and their active exertions, they repeatedly declined the liberal recompenſe offered by Mr. Williams.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

St JULIENS.

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R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

BACK VIEW OF St JULIAN'S.

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CHAPTER 12.

St. Julian's.—Memoirs of Lord Herbert of Cherbury.

FROM Caerleon a walk leads through hanging woods and over fertile meadows to St. Julian's, a place once remarkable for the reſidence of the celebrated lord Herbert of Cherbury; it is ſituated nearly midway between Caerleon and Newport, on the banks of the Uſk. The building, now converted into a farm houſe, has been lately much reduced from its original ſize; part of the ſouth front has been moderniſed, part remains in its former ſtate; and the whole preſents a motley combination, which, at the ſame expence, might have preſerved the venerable appearance of the old manſion, and the comforts of a modern houſe. The ancient gothic porch, which ſtill forms the entrance, is likely to be ſoon deſtroyed, according to the plan adopted in the preſent alterations. The north front, which has been permitted to retain its antique appearance, is a pictureſque object, backed by a wooded eminence, and overhanging the abrupt banks of the Uſk.

The inſide has ſome remains of former magnificence, particularly in the ſtaircaſe, and ſeveral gothic doorways Two apartments retain their ancient dimenſions, but were about to be converted into ſmaller rooms: the lower apartment was 36 feet in length, 20 broad, and 17 high; the upper 45 by 20, and of the ſame height; againſt the walls are the remains of ſlender pillars of the gothic ſtyle.

Near the houſe is an old barn of ſmall dimenſions, which was once part of the chapel of St. Julius, from whom the place derived its appellation; on the ſouth wall are the remains of an arched entrance, which is now half filled up; the eaſt

and weſt windows may be traced, and a ſmall gothic doorway to the weſt, ſtill remains in its original ſtate. According to an ancient tradition, this chapel and manſion were once included within the town of Caerleon *.

Edward Herbert, firſt lord Herbert of Cherbury, whoſe fame induced me to viſit this place, was the fourth male in lineal deſcent from ſir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook, knight. The eſtate and manſion of Coldbrook were inherited by ſir William Herbert, the eldeſt ſon, and continued in the poſſeſſion of his line. Sir Richard Herbert, ſecond ſon, was ſteward of the lordſhips and marches of North Wales, and ſeated at Montgomery Caſtle, where his deſcendants principally reſided. His great grandſon, the ſubject of this chapter, was ſon of Richard Herbert and Magdalen Newport, of High Arkall, in Shropſhire; and was born in 1581 at Eyton in the ſame county.

During his early years he was ſickly and infirm, and was not taught to read until he was ſeven. But this tardineſs was amply repaid by the extraordinary progreſs which he made in his ſtudies; for when he was no more than twelve, he attained ſo great a knowledge of learned languages and logic, that he was ſent to the univerſity college in Oxford. Here he gained great applauſe by diſputing in logic, and compoſing his taſk oftener in Greek than in Latin.

The death of his father, in the ſame year, occaſioned a temporary removal from the univerſity; and ſoon afterwards he contracted a marriage with the heireſs of St. Julian's, which procured him that manſion and eſtate; ſhe was the daughter of ſir William Herbert of St. Julian's, who was lineally deſcended from the earl of Pembroke, and who is praiſed by Churchyard in verſe ſuperior to his uſual ſtyle, as a worthy deſcendant of that illuſtrious peer:

" And thou my knight, that art his heire in blood,
" Though lordſhip, land, and Raggland's ſtately towers,
" A female heire, and force of fortune's flood
" Have thee bereft, yet bearſt his fruits and flowers:

" His

* " The citie reacht to Creechurch than,
" And to St. Gillyan's both:
" Which yet appears to view of man,
" To try this tale of troth." Churchyard's Worthines of Wales, p. 22.

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LORD HERBERT of CHERBURY.

Engraved by Silvester Harding from an original Picture by Larking in the Collection of the Revd. Mr. Lucy, Charlcott, Warwickshire.

Published March 1.1800 by Cadell & Davies. Strand.

" His armes, his name, his faith and mynd are thyne,
" By nature, nurture, arte and grace devyne:
" Ore ſeas and lands, theſe move thee payns to take,
" For God, for fame, for thy ſweete ſoveraines ſake *.

Sir William Herbert bequeathed all his poſſeſſions to Mary his only child, provided ſhe married one of the ſurname of Herbert, or otherwiſe left her only a ſmall portion out of his lands in Angleſey and Caernarvonſhire. " She conti-
" nued unmarried," to uſe lord Herbert's own expreſſion, " till ſhe was one-and-
" twenty; none of the Herberts appearing in all that time who either in age or for-
" tune was fit to match her: about this time I had attained the age of fifteen,
" and a match being propoſed, yet notwithſtanding the diſparity of years betwixt
" us, upon the eight and twentieth of February 1598, in the houſe of Eyton,
" where the ſame man, vicar of * * * * * * married my father and mother,
" chriſtened and married me, I eſpouſed her †."

Not long after this marriage, he returned to Oxford with his wife and mother, and continued his ſtudies with increaſed aſſiduity. Beſides his improvements in claſſical literature, and the other branches uſually cultivated, he attained the French, Italian, and Spaniſh languages without any aſſiſtance, and alſo acquired ſuch a knowledge of muſic as to ſing at ſight and to play on the lute. " My
" intention" he ſays " in learning languages, being to make myſelf a citizen
" of the world, as far as it were poſſible, and my learning of muſick was for
" this end, that I might entertain myſelf at home, and together refreſh my
" mind after my ſtudies, to which I was exceedingly inclined, and that I might
" not need the company of young men, in whom I obſerved, in thoſe times,
" much ill example and debauchery ‡." He alſo devoted himſelf to the ſtudy of medicine and anatomy, affecting to diſcriminate and to cure many diſeaſes which had baffled the ſkill of the moſt eminent phyſicians.

He was extremely aſſiduous in learning all bodily exerciſes, except dancing, for which, he ſays, he could never find leiſure, " as imploying my mind always in acquiring ſome art or ſcience more uſefull." He was remarkable for agility in running, leaping, and wreſtling; excelled in fencing, riding in the manege;

* Worthines of Wales, p. 10. † Life, p. 25, 26. ‡ Life, p. 27.

manege; learned the art of ſhooting with the long bow, breaking horſes for the wars, and fighting duels on horſeback: in this laſt qualification his expertneſs afterwards ſaved his life; being ſuddenly attacked by ſir John Ayres and four armed aſſociates, he defended himſelf with ſo much courage, that although thrown from his horſe, dragged in the ſtirrup, and his ſword broken, he drove away the aſſailants, and wounded ſir John Ayres, after having wreſted his dagger from him, and ſtruck his ſword out of his hand *.

At eighteen he quitted Oxford, and reſided either with his mother in London, or at Montgomery caſtle, till he attained the age of twenty-one.

On the death of queen Eliſabeth, he advanced to Burley near Stamford, to congratulate king James on his acceſſion, and met with a gracious reception from the new monarch. Being ſoon afterwards created knight of the Bath, he does not omit informing us, that at his inſtallation the earl of Shrewſbury put on his ſpur, and that a "principal lady of the court, and in moſt men's opinion "the handſomeſt, took off the taſſel of ſilk and gold from his ſleeve, anſwered "that he would prove a good knight, and pledged her honour for his."

In taking the uſual oath of the knights, "never to ſit in place where injuſtice "ſhould be done, except to right to the uttermoſt of their power, and par-"ticularly ladies and gentlewomen that ſhall be wronged in their honour, if "they deſired aſſiſtance," his imagination, already filled with romantic notions of barbarous chivalry, was fired with additional enthuſiaſm, and thinking himſelf bound by the literal tenor of his oath, he engaged in duels on the moſt frivolous pretences.

In 1608, on account of a diſagreement with his wife about the ſettlement on their children, as well as from a deſire of viſiting foreign courts, he went abroad. During this excurſion he traverſed France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy, and perfomed many acts of extaordinary heroiſm, "as make us wonder, and wonder "would make us doubt, did not the charm of his ingenuous integrity diſpel our "heſitation †."

To enumerate all the inſtances of romantic intrepidity recorded by himſelf, would be to tranſcribe whole pages; I ſhall therefore recite in his own words only one

* Life, p. 88—91. † Life; Advertiſement.

one example, which took place at the ſiege of Juliers. " One day ſir Edward Cecill and myſelf, coming to the approaches that Monſieur de Balagny had made againſt a bulwark or baſtion of that city, Monſieur de Balagny, in the preſence of Sir Edward Cecill, and diverſe Engliſh and French captains then preſent, ſaid, " Monſieur, on dit, que vous êtes un des plus braves de vôtre nation, et je ſuis Balagny, allons voir qui faira le mieux; they ſay you are one of the braveſt of your nation, and I am Balagny, let us ſee who will do beſt." Whereupon leaping ſuddenly out of the trenches with his ſword drawn, I did in the like manner as ſuddenly follow him; both of us in the mean while ſtriving who ſhould be foremoſt, which being perceived by thoſe of the bulwark and cortine oppoſite to us, three or four hundred ſhot at leaſt, great and ſmall, were made againſt us. Our running forwards in emulation of each other was the cauſe that all the ſhots fell betwixt us and the trench from which we ſallied. When Monſieur Balagny finding ſuch a ſtorm of bullets, ſaid " Par dieu, il fait bien chaud, It is very hot here." I anſwered briefly thus, " Vous en irez primier, autrement je n'iray jamais; You ſhall go firſt, or elſe I will never go:" hereupon he ran with all ſpeed towards the trenches, I followed after, leiſurely and upright, and yet came within the trenches before they on the bulwark or cortine could charge again; which paſſage afterwards being related to the prince of Orange, he ſaid it was a ſtrange bravado of Balagny, and that we went to an unavoydable death *."

Soon after his return to England he became diſſatisfied with the inactivity of his life and was meditating to raiſe a regiment for the ſervice of the Venetians againſt the Turks; but was prevented by an accidental meeting with ſir George Villiers, afterwards duke of Buckingham. The king having occaſion to ſend an embaſſador to France, for the purpoſe of renewing the alliance between the two kingdoms, ſir George Villiers mentioned ſir Edward Herbert among eighteen perſons, who were deemed fitteſt for that employment. The king approved him without the ſmalleſt heſitation; and the firſt knowledge he had of his nomination, was on being ſaluted embaſſador to France, by the lords of the council.

During

* Life, p. 76.

During his embaſſy he out-punctilioed the punctilious embaſſador of Spain, and returned the inſolence of the great conſtable de Luynes, the deſpotic miniſter of Louis the thirteenth, "with the ſpirit of a gentleman, without committing "the dignity of embaſſador*."

In 1625 he was advanced by king James to the dignity of a baron of the kingdom of Ireland, by the title of lord Herbert of Caſtle Iſland, and in 1631 to an Engliſh peerage, by that of lord Herbert of Cherbury in Shropſhire. At the commencement of the diſputes between Charles the firſt and the Houſe of Commons, he took an active part on the ſide of the ſovereign. During the meeting of the peers, which the king ſummoned to York in 1640, his advice proved the vigour of his mind, and his decided averſion to temporiſing meaſures. The commiſſioners to treat of a peace with the Scots, recommending the king to pay £.40,000 a month for the maintenance of the Scottiſh troops until they were diſbanded, lord Herbert ſtrongly reprobated this humiliating propoſal, and concluded a ſpirited and dignified ſpeech, with adviſing the king to fortify York, and defend himſelf againſt the invaſion of the Scots. Theſe reſolutions were not adopted; the king conſented to give £.25,000 a month for the maintenance of the Scottiſh troops, and haſtened to London to ſummon that parliament, which aboliſhed monarchy, and doomed him to the ſcaffold. The noble peer diſplayed no leſs ſpirit in the houſe of lords, and was committed to the black rod for his manly defence of the king, in oppoſition to ſome violent reſolutions moved by lord Kimbolton, and adopted by the houſe. Being releaſed from cuſtody, he obtained permiſſion to retire into the country for his health, and inſtantly joined the king at York†.

Not long afterwards, however, he changed his party, from a conviction of the weakneſs and diviſion of the king's counſels, rather than from motives of patriotiſm; for at the period in which he acceded to the popular ſide, the arbitrary conduct of Charles the firſt during the early years of his reign, was obliterated by the greater deſpotiſm of the parliament, and the cauſe of monarchy was the cauſe of all honeſt and diſcerning minds.

In

* Royal and Noble Authors, vol. 1, p. 214. † Parliamentary Hiſtory, vol. 11. p. 3.

In 1644 we find him receiving ſatisfaction from the houſe of commons for the demolition of Montgomery caſtle. He was at this period far advanced in years, which was probably the cauſe, that with his military proweſs and enterpriſing ſpirit, he did not take an active part in the civil wars. He expired on the ſecond of Auguſt 1648, in his houſe in Queen ſtreet, London, aged 67, and was buried in the chancel of St. Giles's in the fields. His grave was covered with a flat marble ſlab, containing a ſhort inſcription compoſed by himſelf *.

The earl of Shafteſbury uſed to ſay, there was in every one, two men, the wiſe and the fooliſh, and that each of them muſt be allowed his turn †. This obſervation is peculiarly applicable to lord Herbert of Cherbury. In one point of view, we obſerve him, like the knight of La Mancha, fighting with windmills, redreſſing the wrongs of diſtreſſed damſels, and riſking his life to wreſt a lady's top-knot from the hands of a rude deſpoiler; at other times we diſcern the ſame man devoted to a life of retirement, and with equal ſpirit cultivating philoſophy, hiſtory, and poetry.

He is juſtly deſcribed by the author of the Welſh tribes as "the hiſtorical, the philoſophical, the right whimſical peer, a man at once and together the negotiator, the ſcholar, ſtateſman, ſoldier, the genius and abſurdity of his time and nation ‡." At one moment he enforces the belief of a deity in terms of the higheſt veneration, and inculcates the neceſſity of a future ſtate, and the doctrine of rewards and puniſhments; at another, he labours to undermine the truth of the only religion which aſcertains the exiſtence and attributes of a ſuperintending deity, and ſubſtantiates by moral and hiſtorical proof the certainty of a future retribution.

Vanity was his prevailing foible; hence he repreſents himſelf as a moſt extraordinary being, even from his infancy, to the laſt ſtage of his life. He ſays, "My infancy

* "Huic inhumatur corpus Edvardi Herbert equitis Balnei, baronis de Cherbury & Caſtle Iſland, auctoris libri, cui titulus eſt, De Veritate. Reddor ut herbæ, viceſimo die Auguſti anno Domini 1648." He had erected an allegoric monument for himſelf in the church of Montgomery, a deſcription of which is given by Lloyd. Eng. Worthies, p. 1018. Royal and Noble Authors, vol. 1 p. 218."

† Locke's Memoirs of the Earl of Shafteſbury. Works, vol. 3, p. 474.

‡ P. 92.

infancy was very ſickly; it was ſo long before I began to ſpeak, that many thought I ſhould be ever dumb; the very furtheſt thing I remember is, that when I underſtood what was ſaid by others, I did yet forbear to ſpeak, leſt I ſhould utter ſomething that were imperfect or impertinent." He attempts to prove his own ſuperior acuteneſs, merely becauſe he aſked a queſtion, which perhaps ſcarcely any child ever omitted: "when I came to talk, one of the furtheſt enquiries I made was how I came into this world? I told my nurſe, keeper, and others, I found myſelf here indeed, but from what cauſe or beginning, or by what means I could not imagine; but for this I was laughed at by the nurſe, and ſome other women that were preſent, ſo I was wondered at by others, who ſaid they never heard a child but myſelf aſk that queſtion *."

He exaggerates common incidents into extraordinary events: he informs us, as a miraculous circumſtance, that he grew the breadth of two little fingers after he was thirty years old; that he weighed lighter than men who were lower than himſelf by the head, and in their bodies ſlenderer; and that he had a conſtant pulſe in the crown of his head.

With reſpect to another bodily excellence, let the noble author ſpeak for himſelf: "It is well known to them that wait in my chamber, that the ſhirts, waiſtcoats, and other garments I wear next my body are ſweet, beyond what either eaſily can be believed, or hath been obſerved in any body elſe; which ſweetneſs alſo was found to be in my breath, before I uſed to take tobacco."

In an age of chivalry the fair, like Deſdemona, were wooed with ſtories of

"Battles, Sieges, Fortunes;

and lord Herbert of Cherbury, like Othello, could,

"even from his boyiſh days,
"Speak of moſt diſaſtrous chances,
"Of moving accidents by flood and field,
"Of hair-breadth 'ſcapes, i' the imminent deadly breach.

He could alſo boaſt;

"I often did beguile them of their tears,

"When

* Life, p. 16.

" When I did ſpeak of ſome diſtreſsful ſtroke
" That my youth ſuffer'd."

With ſelf-complacency he aſſerts, that his perſon was much commended by the lords and ladies of the court; he alſo relates many inſtances of the effect of his attractions, and gives intimations of many more, which honour and delicacy prevented him from divulging.

Among other great perſonages who were ſtruck with his comelineſs, queen Elizabeth muſt not be omitted. He thus relates his firſt appearance at court, when he was nineteen years of age: " As it was the manner of theſe times for all men to kneel down before the great queen Elizabeth who then reigned, I was likewiſe upon my knees in the preſence chamber when ſhe paſſed by to the chappel at Whitehall. As ſoon as ſhe ſaw me ſhe ſtopped, and ſwearing her uſual oath, demanded, who is this? Every body there preſent looked upon me, but no man knew me, till ſir James Croft, a penſioner, finding the queen ſtayed, returned back, and told who I was, and that I had married ſir William Herbert of St. Gillian's daughter; the queen hereupon looked attentively upon me, and ſwearing again her ordinary oath, ſaid, it is pity he was married ſo young, and thereupon gave me her hand to kiſs twice, both times gently clapping me on the cheek *."

Elizabeth was at this period 70 years old; but he afterwards attracted other queens, who were younger and more beautiful. Anne of Auſtria, conſort of Louis the thirteenth, was particularly courteous to him; and the marked attentions of Anne of Denmark, queen of James the firſt, attracted the notice of the public, and excited the jealouſy of the king.

The greateſt and moſt beautiful ladies of the court, vied who ſhould obtain his picture; ſeveral, he informs us, procured it ſurreptitiouſly, and wore it next their heart: a circumſtance which more than once exaſperated their huſbands, and brought him in danger of aſſaſſination. Even the queen placed his portrait in her innermoſt chamber.

As a ſcholar and an author, lord Herbert obtained great celebrity in his own age, and was juſtly eſteemed a prodigy of learning. But the ſame enthuſiaſm, affectation,

* Life, p. 53.

fectation, and eccentricity which were apparent in his other actions, followed him alſo in the cloſet, and influenced in moſt inſtances his literary purſuits.

His works may be divided into hiſtorical and philoſophical. His hiſtorical works are the life and reign of Henry the eighth, and his own memoirs.

The reign of Henry the eighth, written at the command of James the firſt, is allowed to be a maſter-piece of hiſtoric biography; and he is ſaid, by an excellent judge *, to have "acquitted himſelf with like reputation as the lord chancellor Bacon gained by that of Henry the ſeventh."

Biography is always pleaſing when it records the memoirs of celebrated men; but it becomes doubly intereſting, when great perſons are their own biographers, and develop their characters, education, progreſs, purſuits and adventures. This pleaſure is ſtill farther heightened, when the narrative of extraordinary events is tinctured with the garrulity of age, and the vanity of ſelf-applauſe. We are then able to unfold the motives of action, to diſcover the prominent foibles, as well as virtues, and trace the leading feature in the character of the perſon, who is at once the actor and recorder of the incidents which he exhibits to the public eye. Such a biographer is lord Herbert of Cherbury, in the memoirs of his own life, which he wrote for the knowledge and example of his poſterity. He has related his own adventures with peculiar *naïveté*, and dwelt on the moſt trifling, as well as the moſt important incidents with equal applauſe and ſelf-admiration.

His philoſophical works were written in Latin; they conſiſt of De Religione Gentilium errorumque apud eos cauſis, and his celebrated treatiſe De Veritate. The former, which treats of the religion of the Gentiles, and the cauſes of their errors, abounds with hiſtorical reſearches, and examines the miſtaken opinions of the heathen prieſts and philoſophers in their notions of the deity.

His book De Veritate was his favourite work, and that on which he chiefly prided himſelf; for it is the only one of his performances, which he mentions in his memoirs, and in his epitaph he diſtinguiſhed himſelf as the author of this treatiſe.

Lord

* Nicholſon's Hiſtorical Libraries, p. 70.

Lord Herbert is ſaid to have been the firſt author, who formed deiſm into a ſyſtem, and endeavoured to aſſert the ſufficiency, univerſality, and abſolute perfection of natural religion, without the neceſſity of any extraordinary revelation. He attempted to prove that the light of reaſon, and the innate principles planted in the human mind, are ſufficient to diſcover the great doctrines of morality, to regulate our actions, and conduct us to happineſs in a future ſtate.

To refute theſe poſitions is unneceſſary, as their fallacy and inconſiſtency have been ably diſplayed by Locke, Leland, and many other writers of eminence. But the noble author of theſe rhapſodies proved himſelf the ſtrongeſt enthuſiaſt while he combated enthuſiaſm, and by his own example evinced the abſurdity of his own ſyſtem.

Having finiſhed this treatiſe "De Veritate," in which revelation is conſidered as uſeleſs, he was deſirous to publiſh it; but as the frame of his whole book differed from all former writings concerning the diſcovery of truth, he heſitated whether he ſhould ſuſpend the publication. "Being" he ſays, "thus doubtful in my chamber, one fair day in the ſummer, my caſement being opened towards the ſouth, the ſun ſhining clear and no wind ſtirring, I took my book De Veritate in my hand, and kneeling on my knees devoutly, ſaid theſe words; "O thou eternal God, author of the light which now ſhines upon me, and giver of all inward illuminations, I do beſeech thee of thy infinite goodneſs to pardon a greater requeſt than a ſinner ought to make; I am not ſatisfied enough whether I ſhall publiſh this book De Veritate; if it be for thy glory, I beſeech thee give me ſome ſign from heaven, if not I ſhall ſuppreſs it." I had no ſooner ſpoken theſe words, but a loud though yet gentle noiſe came from the heavens, (for it was like nothing on earth) which did ſo comfort and cheer me, that I took my petition as granted, and that I had the ſign I demanded, whereupon alſo I reſolved to print my book: this (how ſtrange ſoever it may ſeem) I proteſt before the eternal God is true; neither am I any way ſuperſtitiouſly deceived herein, ſince I did not only clearly hear the noiſe, but in the ſereneſt ſky I ever ſaw, being without all cloud, did to my thinking, ſee the place from whence it came. And now I ſent my book to be printed in Paris, at my own coſt and charges *."

It

* Life, p. 172.

It is not poſſible to reprove the folly and blindneſs of his conduct in this inſtance, in warmer terms than thoſe which are employed by his noble editor. "There is no ſtronger characteriſtic of human nature, than its being open to the groſſeſt contradictions: one of lord Herbert's chief arguments againſt revealed religion is, the improbability that Heaven ſhould reveal its will to only a portion of the earth, which he terms particular religion. How could a man, who doubted of partial, believe individual revelation? What vanity, to think his book of ſuch importance to the cauſe of truth, that it could extort a declaration of the divine will, when the intereſts of half mankind could not *."

The eſtate of St. Julian's, and the title of baron Herbert of Cherbury, continued in his deſcendants, until the extinction of the male line by the death of his grandſon Henry, who dying without iſſue, left his eſtate to his nephew Francis Herbert, ſon of his ſiſter Florentia, by Richard Herbert of Oakley park, deſcended from Matthew Herbert of Dolgiog, uncle to the firſt lord Herbert of Cherbury †. The eſtate was inherited by his ſon, Henry Arthur Herbert, created baron Herbert of Cherbury in 1743. Having eſpouſed Barbara, neice and heireſs to William Herbert the laſt marquis of Powis, he was in 1748 raiſed to the earldom of Powis; and the blood of the Herberts in all its branches, unites in their ſon the preſent earl.

The eſtate of St. Julian's was purchaſed from the late earl by Mr. Van of Lanwern; it came, with his other eſtates, to his daughter Katherine, wife of ſir Robert Saluſbury, and has been recently ſold to Mr. Hunter.

* Walpole's Royal and Noble Authors, vol. 1. p. 216. For the contents of this chapter have been conſulted the Memoirs of Lord Herbert of Cherbury, written by himſelf, and edited by the late earl of Orford; Royal and Noble Authors; Biographia Britannica; Leland's View of Deiſtical Writers; and Wood's Athenæ Oxonienſes.

† By his will, dated 1650. From ſir Robert Saluſbury.

CHAPTER 13.

Lantarnam Houſe.—Branch of the Morgan Family.—Upper Road to Uſk.—Langibby Houſe and Caſtle.—Family of Williams.—Lower Road to Uſk.—Kemeys Houſe. Inſcription in Tredonnoc Church.—Lantriſaint.—Lanllowel.—Vale of Uſk.

FROM Caerleon I made an excurſion to Lantarnam houſe, once the ſeat of a conſiderable branch of the Morgan family, which is ſituated near the high road from Newport to Pont y pool, about two miles from Caerleon. The ſite of the houſe was a rich ciſtertian abbey* of ſix monks, whoſe yearly income was rated on the diſſolution at £.71. 3s. 2d. According to Tanner, the ſite was granted, 31 Henry 8. to John Parker, and in 1 Mary to John Carpenter and William Savage. In the reign of Eliſabeth, the abbey became the poperty of the Morgans who reſided at Kilſant†, now called Pentrè bach, two miles from Lantarnam.

In the pedigree of the Morgans, given by Enderbie, William Morgan, ſon of John Morgan of Caerleon, and grandſon of ſir Thomas Morgan of Pencoed, is diſtinguiſhed as the firſt proprietor of Lantarnam. The preſent manſion appears to have been finiſhed in the time of queen Eliſabeth, from the old materials of the abbey. The only remains of the ancient ſtructure are the ſtone cells, converted into ſtables, the walls of the garden, and a beautiful gothic gateway, which is

* It is thus mentioned by Leland, "Llantarnam abbey of white monks, ſtanding in a wood, iii miles from Cairleon," vol. 5. fol. 12.

† Cilſant, or as it is pronounced Kilſant, ſignifies in Welſh, as Mr. Evans informs me, the receſs of the little brook Sant, which runs near the houſe. The manſion, now a farm houſe, is ſeated at the extremity of the pariſh of Lantarnam. Some remaining parts of the old ſtructure ſeem to have been erected as early as the time of Henry the ſecond; it is called Pentrè bach, or the little village.

On a free ſtone of the great chimney in the hall, is part of a ſepulchral inſcription, erected to the memory of Vindutius, a Roman ſoldier of the ſecond Auguſtan Legion, aged 45.

is ſtill called Magna Porta, and was the grand entrance. Within this gateway is a porch which bears the date of 1588, diſtinguiſhed with a ſhield of the Morgan arms in ſtone, with nine quarterings.

The houſe is a large antiquated manſion, damp, dreary, and having been long untenanted, exhibits an appearance of gloom and decay, rendered ſtill more melancholy by a few traces of former magnificence. The large hall contains ſeveral whole length portraits of our kings and queens, particularly of Henry the eighth, of James the firſt, of his queen, Anne of Denmark, and of Charles the firſt when prince of Wales; the royal arms are alſo blazoned in the windows. Many family portraits are diſperſed about the rooms, but no one could inform me whom they repreſented.

The gardens occupy a flat, and being ſurrounded with high and maſſive walls, are lonely and ſecluded. The park is extenſive and diverſified, ſwelling into gentle undulations of rich paſture, and interſperſed with thick plantations and dark avenues, which make a conſpicuous figure in the adjoining landſcape.

The vale in which the houſe is ſituated, is watered by the rapid torrent that deſcends from the hills of Pont y pool. It is uſually called the Avon Lwyd*, or Grey river, but its original appellation is Torfaen, or the breaker of ſtones; a name which it well deſerves from its extreme impetuoſity, and ſtony bed; an opinion likewiſe prevails among the natives, that the colliſion of the ſtones produces ſparks of fire.

The church, ſeated not far from the banks of this torrent, is called from its poſition, Lan Torfaen, which is corrupted into Lantarnam. A chapel on the north ſide of the church, is the cemetery of this branch of the Morgans; the bodies are interred in a vault, without any inſcriptions to their memory.

The family of Lantarnam was very conſiderable in wealth and conſequence, and before the diviſion of the property, on the failure of the male line, the rent roll was not leſs than £.8000 a year. In 1642 ſir Edward Morgan was created a baronet, and the laſt male of this line was his grandſon, ſir Edward Morgan, who died in 1681, at the age of twenty-five. He bequeathed his eſtate jointly between

* It received the appellation of Avon Lwyd, or the grey river, ſince the eſtabliſhment of the iron works at Pont y Pool, from its waters being diſcoloured by ſcourings of the iron-ſtone.

between his two daughters. Anne, the youngeſt, dying unmarried, left her moiety to John Howe, eſq. who had eſpouſed her mother, lady Morgan, and it was ſold by his ſon, the firſt lord Chedworth. Frances, the eldeſt daughter, married Edmund Bray, eſq. of Barrington in Gloceſterſhire. The manſion-houſe and eſtate of Lantarnam paſſed to her daughters, and now belongs to her deſcendants Edmund Blewit, eſq. of Saltford, and Charles Fettiplace, eſq. of Swinebrook, in Oxfordſhire.

The nature of the ſucceſſion has principally occaſioned the decay of the manſion; it was left jointly among the daughters of Mrs. Bray, and as neither would agree to relinquiſh the reſidence of her anceſtors, they occupied the houſe alternately. Since their death the uncomfortable terms of a joint poſſeſſion diſguſted their deſcendants, who were ſettled in a diſtant county, and the houſe has remained untenanted for a conſiderable number of years.

Returning to Caerleon, I purſued my journey to Uſk, along the upper road, which croſſes the Avon Lwyd, over Pont Saturn, leaving Penros houſe and encampment at a little diſtance on the left. I gently aſcended for the ſpace of three miles, to the top of an eminence, which overlooks on one ſide the rich groves of Lantarnam park, and on the other the beautiful vale watered by the Uſk, and bounded by the wooded acclivities of Kemeys and Bertholly. The diſtant country is broken into fine inequalities of hill and dale, till the view is cloſed by the duſky maſs of mountains which overhang Abergavenny. In the full enjoyment of this delightful ſcenery, I deſcended to Langibby, which takes its name from the church, dedicated to St. Cibby, or Kebbius. According to the Lives of the Saints, he was a native of Cornwall, ordained biſhop by St. Hilary of Poitiers, and preached in Cornwall in the fourth century.

To the weſt of the village, on a gentle ſlope, and under the ruins of an old caſtle, is ſituated Langibby houſe, belonging to the ancient family of Williams. It is ſaid to have been built by Inigo Jones, but has nothing ſtriking in the architecture; the apartments however are convenient and well proportioned. The view from the houſe is peculiarly ſtriking; the Uſk ſweeps along a rich and narrow vale, and the ſingular curvature of its ſtream, which I ſo much admired from

Bertholly,

Bertholly, here preſents itſelf with ſtill greater effect. From its banks riſe the bold heights of the long ridge which joins the Pencamawr, clothed from the bottom to the top, with a majeſtic mantle of impervious wood, and enriched with the hanging groves of Bertholly place.

From the houſe I aſcended to the brow of the hill, on which ſtand the ruins of Langibby caſtle, ſurrounded by an extenſive tract of wood. The remains conſiſt only of a ſquare tower, much dilapidated, the walls of ſome apartments with ſpringing columns, and part of the roof which they ſupported. The outer walls, which may ſtill be traced, encloſed a large area, of an oblong but irregular ſhape, which is ſhewn by the annexed plan; it is now an orchard, and produces excellent cyder. I am totally unacquainted with the æra of its conſtruction, but the remains of ſeveral pointed arches prove that it was erected after the introduction of gothic architecture, and probably by the Norman chieftains who conquered this part of Gwent. The fineſt view of the ruins is to the north, from a paddock at the foot of the hill, where they appear ſtretching along the brow of the eminence, overhanging the precipice, and emboſomed in the wood.

This caſtle, anciently called Trergreg * or Traygruck, was in the poſſeſſion of the earls of Gloceſter of the line of Clare, and is mentioned among the lands forming the dowry of Maud, widow of Gilbert, the laſt male of this line. Through his daughter it came to the earls of March of the Mortimer line; among whom Roger Mortimer ſtyles himſelf lord of Tregrucke, in the charter which he granted to the town of Uſk. In the beginning of the ſeventeenth century, we find it in the poſſeſſion of the Williams family; it ſeems to have been a place of importance during the civil wars, and is mentioned by Oliver Cromwell as a houſe well ſtored with arms, and very ſtrong.

Enderbie, in a pedigree which he has given of the Williams family, fancifully derives it from Cradoc vreych vras, who is ſtyled a prince between the Severn and Wye, a contemporary with Arthur, and a knight of the round table. The family,

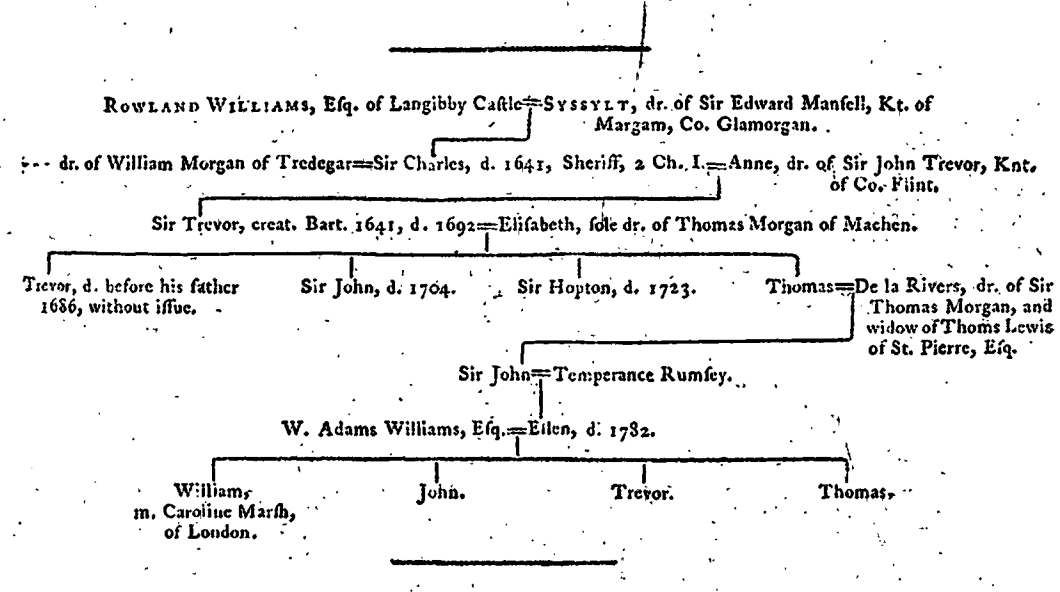
* "The caſtle of Trergreg a ii. myles from Cair Uſk in middle Venceland. Yt is otherwiſe communely cawled Lankiby, bycawſe it is in the paroche of Kibby." Leland, Itin. vol. 5. fol. 7. Dugdale's Baronage, art. Clare and Mortimer. See the next chapter on Uſk.

family, however, derive a more unequivocal ſplendour from ſir Trevor Williams, who was created a baronet in 1641. He was one of thoſe who, in the beginning of the civil wars, diſguſted with the conduct of Charles the firſt, adhered to the ſide of parliament, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf for his zeal and activity at the ſiege of Raglan caſtle; but perceiving, from fatal experience, that the evils of a revolutionary government were greater than thoſe of the moſt deſpotic monarchy, he embraced the royal cauſe with no leſs fervour. He excited the apprehenſions of Cromwell, who iſſued orders for his arreſt, and deſcribed him as a dangerous man, in terms of ſuſpicion and malignity, which prove his prudence and intrepidity, and the veneration entertained for his character *.

He was active in the reſtoration of monarchy, and lived, beloved and reſpected, to a very advanced age. Sir John Williams, his grandſon, dying in 1738 without

* "Hee is a man (as I am informed) full of craft "and ſubtiltye, very bould and reſolute, hath a houſe, "Langebie, well ſtored with armes, and very ſtronge, "his neighbours about him very malignant, and much "for him, whoe are apt to reſcue him, if apprehended, "much more to diſcover any thinge which may pre-"vent itt." Harris's Life of Oliver Cromwell.

PEDIGREE OF THE WILLIAMS FAMILY.


Rowland Williams, Eſq. of Langibby Caſtle=Syssylt, dr. of Sir Edward Manſell, Kt. of Margam, Co. Glamorgan.
--- dr. of William Morgan of Tredegar=Sir Charles, d. 1641, Sheriff, 2 Ch. I.=Anne, dr. of Sir John Trevor, Knt. of Co. Flint.
Sir Trevor, creat. Bart. 1641, d. 1692=Eliſabeth, ſole dr. of Thomas Morgan of Machen.
Trevor, d. before his father 1686, without iſſue.
Sir John, d. 1704.
Sir Hopton, d. 1723.
Thomas=De la Rivers, dr. of Sir Thomas Morgan, and widow of Thoms Lewis of St. Pierre, Eſq.
Sir John=Temperance Rumſey.
W. Adams Williams, Eſq.=Ellen, d. 1782.
William, m. Caroline Marſh, of London.
John.
Trevor.
Thomas.

This Pedigree is drawn from Communications by W. A. Williams, eſq. and from Le Neve's MS. Pedigrees of Baronets, vol. 2. p. 179. 1621—1660, in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Nichols, printer.

out iſſue male, his daughter Ellen conveyed the eſtate of Langibby to her huſband William Adams, eſq. of Monmouth, who aſſumed the name and arms of Williams; ſhe died in 1782, and Mr. Williams reſigned Langibby place to his ſon and heir William, the preſent proprietor. The eſtate of Langibby is not inconſiderable, but was much larger, till ſir John Williams, in virtue of an act of parliament paſſed in the fifth of William and Mary, ſold the lordſhip of Caerwent, and other lands in Monmouthſhire, and the manors of Ewyas Lacy, Walterſton, and Treſcaillon in the county of Hereford *.

About a mile from Langibby, I was pleaſed with an agreeable proſpect of the bridge, church, and caſtle of Uſk; I then deſcended to the church of Lanbaddoc, paſſed along a road which occupies the whole ſpace between the river and a wooded precipice, and croſſed over a ſtone bridge to the town of Uſk.

This is the common road between Caerleon and Uſk for c[illegible] but a more level, though more circuitous and rugged route, lead[illegible]k of the river. I rode along this track in company with [illegible] it with peculiar attention, as it is ſuppoſed by many perſons to [illegible] the ſite of the Roman road, from their capital at Caerleon, to the ſtation of Burrium or Uſk. Croſſing the bridge of Caerleon, we went through the village or Ultra Pontem, to the turnpike gate leading to Newport, turned at right angles into the Uſk road, and at a little diſtance, paſſed a hollow way, called the old Chepſtow hill road, which was formerly the common paſſage to Caerwent, and ſuppoſed to run in the direction of the Julia Strata. We continued along a natural terrace, above the rich marſhy plain watered by the Uſk, and at the foot of Kemeys cliff, under the chain of encampments which occupy the ſummit of the ridge.

In our route, Mr. Evans pointed out to me two farm houſes, which are called Great and Little Bullmoor. He obſerved, that according to tradition, Little Bullmoor is built on the foundation of an ancient Roman ſtructure. He likewiſe informed me, in confirmation of this report, that here was diſcovered, in 1777 or 1778, the maſſive foundation of an immenſe building, conſiſting of hewn ſtones, each weighing from half a ton to a ton. Among theſe fragments,

was

* From W. Adams Williams, eſq.

was a large freeſtone, ſix or ſeven feet in height, and four wide, in which an arched receſs was excavated, containing the figure of a man in a ſitting poſture; the left hand reſting on a globe, the right mutilated: it ſeemed to reſemble the ſtatue of an imperator.

The road paſſes through the ſmall village of Kemeys, between the church, which is a low and rude building in the midſt of a field, and the manſion, ſituated at the bottom of the hanging woods, and under the ſummer-houſe called the Folly.

The manſion is an ancient ſeat, which belonged to a branch of the Kemeys family *. The laſt proprietor of that line was George Kemeys, who ſold it to Laurence Lord, eſq. of Banbury in Oxfordſhire. Allen Lord, his deſcendant, died in 1771; his widow is 84, and at her death the eſtate will be divided between the heirs of his two daughters, who are both deceaſed.

A fine gothic portal leads into the court yard, and over a doorway of the houſe is a ſmall figure of a man carved in ſtone, holding in his right hand an hour-glaſs, and in his left a ſcroll, with the Kemeys arms, a chevron charged with three pheons, and G. K. the initial letters of George Kemeys, anno 1693. Underneath is a Welſh motto †, alluding to the hour-glaſs, which Mr. Evans explained: "Time paſſes like the breathing gale."

The ſummer-houſe on the brow of the eminence, commanding that delightful and extenſive view, which I mentioned in the fifth chapter, was erected by George Kemeys. Boaſting one day to his uncle, that he had conſtructed a building from which eleven counties could be ſeen, the uncle replied, "I am ſorry, nephew, that eleven counties can ſee *thy folly*." Hence it was called Kemeys Folly, and perhaps has given a general appellation to buildings of this kind, which are placed on a commanding eminence.

From Kemeys we continued under the groves of Bertholly, and the foreſts which clothe the ſteep ſides of the adjoining eminences, till we left the road, and croſſed

* The pariſh regiſter, from which Mr. Evans kindly favoured me with ſeveral extracts, records the baptiſms of the Kemeys family, as far back as the year 1583. The firſt perſon mentioned is: "Baptizatus fuit Georgius filius Edwardi Kemmes, 17 die februarii anno domini 1583."

† "Onys chwyth awel ſe derfyn amſer."

croſſed the Uſk, over a handſome ſtone bridge, built by the architect of the Pont y Prydd. The tide flows to this place, and the banks of the Uſk were ſtrewed with large quantities of timber and underwood, which are brought from the neighbouring foreſts, and conveyed in barges to Caerleon and Newport. From the bridge we aſcended to Tredonnoc church, for the purpoſe of inſpecting a Roman inſcription, which is affixed to the inſide of the north wall. An accurate fac ſimile is given by Horſley, who relates that it was diſcovered three feet under ground, near the foundations of the church; it is a ſepulchral inſcription, erected to the memory of Julius Julianus, a ſoldier of the ſecond Auguſtan legion *. Having ſatisfied our curioſity, we re-croſſed the bridge, and returning to the road, purſued our journey to Uſk.

Paſſing through Lantriſaint, we admired the church, which is a large handſome gothic building, with a ſquare tower of hewn ſtone, and turning to the north-eaſt, ſoon entered the turnpike from Uſk to the new paſſage. The road winding round a hill, brought us to Lanllowel, a ſmall village, diſtinguiſhed in the hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, as giving title to Blethyn Broad Spear, who is called in the ancient genealogies lord of Beachley and Lanllowel. He bore for his arms, a chevron between three ſpears heads, and his daughter and heireſs Alice married Peter Fitzreginald, deſcended from Henry Fitzherbert, and anceſtor of the earls of Pembroke of the Herbert line. The title of lords of Lanllowel was retained by his poſterity, till it was loſt in greater and more ſplendid dignities.

The church, which ſtands cloſe to the high road, is a very ancient building, of a ſimple form, without any diſtinction between the chancel and nave, and with a ſmall belfry, like the church of Malpas.

Juſt beyond the village the road croſſes the brook Olwy, and continues not far from the left bank of the Uſk; in ſome places it hangs over the ſtream, and in others has been waſhed away by the violence of the torrent. On the oppoſite bank of the Uſk, the country riſes in regular gradations, to the ſummit of the elevated

* "DIIS MANIBUS JULIUS JULIANUS MILES EST CURA AGENTE AMANDA CONJUGE." Horſley, LEGIONIS SECUNDÆ AUGUSTÆ STIPENDIORUM p. 192. plate 69.
OCTODECIM ARMORUM QUADRAGINTA HIC SITUS.

elevated ridge on which the upper road is carried; the woods and ruins of Langibby caſtle crowning the eminence. From the bank along which we rode, ſtretched a rich and extenſive plain, bounded by diſtant hills, and before us the church and town of Uſk terminated the view: this plain, called the vale of the Uſk *, is the largeſt tract of level ground in the inland parts of the county; it extends to the weſt of the town, as far as Landenny, along the lands watered by the Olwy; and to the ſouth between the Uſk and the elevated ground beyond Lantriſaint, almoſt to New Bridge; a rich and fertile diſtrict, but expoſed to the inundations of the Uſk and Olwy.

* It is neceſſary to diſtinguiſh the vale of Uſk from the vale of the Uſk, which ſtretches from beyond Abergavenny, along both ſides of the river, as far as Lanvair church, at the bottom of the Clytha hills.

TREDONNOC CHURCH

CHAPTER 14.

Town of Uſk.—Ancient Burrium.—Caſtle.—Hiſtory and Proprietors.—Church.—Inſcription.—Priory.—Encampments of Craeg y Gaercyd, Campwood, and Coed y Bunedd.

THE town of Uſk is pleaſantly ſituated on the left bank of the river, where the well-wooded undulations of a hilly diſtrict terminate in the fertile vale of Uſk; and where the abrupt tranſition from the level and cultivated plain, to the wildneſs of foreſt ſcenery, is peculiarly ſtriking.

A ſtone bridge of five arches is built acroſs the Uſk, from which the mountains in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny preſent themſelves with conſiderable effect; the even ridge of the Blorenge, and the conical ſhape of the Sugarloaf, are finely contraſted with the broken ſummit of the Skyrrid, appearing through an opening of the circumjacent hills.

Although no Roman antiquities have ever been diſcovered, either in this town or its vicinity, yet Uſk is generally and juſtly allowed to have been the ancient Burrium, an opinion confirmed by its central poſition between Caerleon, Abergavenny, and Monmouth, and by the exact coincidence of its diſtance from thoſe places, with the diſtance in the Itineraries of Burrium, from Iſca Silurum, Gobannium, and Bleſtium. Many authors, however, not ſatisfied with this argument, endeavour to draw other proofs from its ſquare form *, from its ſituation at the confluence of two rivers, a ſuppoſed reſemblance between the Roman name of Burrium †, and the Britiſh appellation Bryn Byga, and from certain

* It may be ſeen from the plan, that the town is by no means of a *ſquare* form.

† Some perſons ſuppoſe the name of Burrium derived from the ſmall rivulet Byrddin, which falls into the Uſk, a mile above the town, on the oppoſite ſide of the river, merely becauſe the three firſt letters of each word have a ſimilar ſound. Mr. Owen, however, has favoured me with a more natural derivation; Bŵr, pronounced Boor, ſignifies an encloſure, an entrenchment, or work thrown up for defence. It is generally uſed in the Britiſh tongue, for a ſimple caſtrum, or ſtrong hold, fortified with heaps of timber, ſtones, and other materials, as were the ancient Britiſh fortreſſes. See Owen's Welſh and Engliſh Dictionary: art. Bŵr.

Castle
Porth y Garn Street
Ash Street
Twyn
Bridge Street
Church & Mill Street
Church
Priory
Mary Port Street
New Market Street & Hough
Old Market Street
Walter Street
Cae Putta
Book Lane
to the New Passage
from Pont y Pool
to Caerleon
USK
RIVER
Chains

PLAN OF USK

certain rectilinear ſwellings or banks, although none of theſe circumſtances are ſufficiently deciſive to prove it a Roman ſtation.

It was moſt probably a Britiſh town, and derived its Roman name from Bŵr, which ſignifies an entrenchment, or encloſure fortified with trees and ſtones, in the manner of the ancient Britons. Being taken by the Romans, it was perhaps never uſed as a primary ſtation, but ſimply curbed by a garriſon, who occupied a ſmall fort, ſituated on the very eminence where the ruins of the preſent caſtle are placed.

Uſk is undoubtedly a place of great antiquity, and was of conſiderable extent. In digging wells, and making foundations for buildings, three ranges of pavement have been diſcovered, and in the adjacent fields pitched roads traced *, which are ſuppoſed to have been ſtreets of the town. According to the tradition of the natives, ſeveral places, at ſome diſtance from the preſent houſes, were once compriſed within the precincts; and a lane, called Book † lane, was pointed out to me as having been a ſtreet of the town. Many ancient houſes are in ruins, and a conſiderable diſtrict is much dilapidated, exhibiting the appearance of having been ſacked, and recently quitted by an enemy: ſeveral of theſe houſes are faced with hewn ſtone, and from the form of the windows, ſeem to have been conſtructed at an early period; the natives conſider theſe ruins as the effect of Owen Glendower's devaſtations; the weſtern part is more modern, and in better repair, and the place, of which the new market-houſe occupies the center, has a neat appearance.

Uſk contains one hundred and ſixty-ſix houſes, and not more than ſeven hundred inhabitants. It has no commerce, and only one manufactory of japan ware, which was eſtabliſhed by Mr. Edward Allgood of Pont y Pool, and is now carried on by his nephew Mr. Hughes. The river is famous for its ſalmon; and there are ſeveral weirs in the vicinity; one of theſe is rented by Mr. Rhees, poſt-

* In a field called Cae-puta, to the ſouth of the town, between the church and the turnpike road, about five years ago, a paved road was diſcovered under ground; it was nine feet broad, and formed of hewn ſtones placed edgeways.

† A ridiculous tradition is current among the natives, that this name is derived from the bookbinders, who once inhabited the ſtreet.

poſt-maſter, and brings a conſiderable profit; in his houſe is the figure of a ſalmon, caught in 1782, which weighed 68 pounds and a half.

To the ſouth of the town are elevated embankments of earth, ſtretching in a ſtrait line to the Uſk, oppoſite Lanbaddoc, where there was formerly a ford. Theſe I once ſuppoſed to have been remains of ancient ramparts; Mr. Morrice, however, from whoſe ſurvey a plan of the town is given, more juſtly conſiders them as not intended for defence, but as raiſed for the purpoſe of preſerving the town from the inundations of the Olwy, which often lays the adjacent country under water.

Uſk is a borough town, and in conjunction with Newport and Monmouth, ſends one member to parliament.

The original charter for electing the mayor, regulating the adminiſtration of juſtice, and conferring certain privileges to the bailiff or mayor, community, and burgeſſes, was granted by Eliſabeth de Burgh, to whom the lordſhip belonged, and was confirmed by her ſon Roger de Mortimer, earl of March, by a deed dated at his caſtle of Uſk, in 1398, in which he ſtiles himſelf earl of March and Ulſter, lord of Uſk, Trelegg, Tregrucke, Carlyon, Edlogan, and Labeneth, in Wales. This charter being deſtroyed, during the conflagration of the town by Owen Glendower, was confirmed by his ſon Edmund, in the third year of Henry the fifth *.

The diſcovery of this charter proved highly beneficial to the inhabitants, who had, by a ſtatute of queen Eliſabeth, contributed to the repairs of Newport and Caerleon bridges; but in 1792, at the ſuggeſtion of Mr. Prothero, an eminent attorney of the place, the corporation obtained an exemption, in virtue of a clauſe in the ſame ſtatute, enacting "that no *town corporate* ſhall be contributory, which is bound to make or repair any bridge over any main river."

An agreeable walk leads under the firſt arch of the bridge, to the Abergavenny road, through a meadow planted with large walnut trees, by the ſide of the limpid and murmuring Uſk, under the ruins of the caſtle and its high ponderous ivy-mantled tower, which are ſeen on this ſide to the beſt advantage.

The

* A copy of this charter is in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Jones of Piſtill.

The ruins of the caſtle, which are neither magnificent, nor highly intereſting in their appearance, ſtand on an abrupt eminence, to the eaſt of the river, and follow the circular bend of the hill; they conſiſt of the ſhell, which encloſes an area or court, and ſome outworks to the weſt, formed by two ſtrait walls converging to each other, and ſtrengthened at the point of union by a round tower. At the extremity of the ſouthern wall is a grand gothic gateway, with a groove for a portcullis, which was the principal entrance, and of which an accurate engraving is given in Groſe's Antiquities; the upper part is converted into a farm houſe, with conſiderable additions. This ſhell occupies a large extent. Like all ancient caſtles built in early periods, it conſiſts of ſtrait walls, ſtrengthened with round and ſquare towers, and provided on the outſide with no apertures, but long embraſures, or oeillets, excepting thoſe which have ſince been formed. Within are ſeveral apartments, with chimneys, and a baronial hall, meaſuring 48 feet by 24. A vignette of the keep, or ſquare tower, is annexed.

No caſtle in Monmouthſhire has been ſubject to more frequent aſſaults; it ſuffered, as well as the town, from the ravages of Owen Glendower, who, after committing the moſt mercileſs depredations, was defeated at the battle of Uſk, by the royal troops, and driven back in diſgrace to his native mountains.

A ſingular bird's eye view of Uſk is ſeen from the terrace, on the outſide of the caſtle, under the ivy-mantled tower, which overhangs the brow of the precipice. The town occupies a level, and not a ſingle building ſeems to ſtand on the ſmalleſt riſe; the houſes are partly intermixed with fields of paſture; the white church of Lanbaddoc, which ſtands on the oppoſite bank, ſeems included within the precincts of the town; and the Uſk, iſſuing from hills and foreſts, and gliſtening as it paſſes the bridge, enhances the beauty of the circumjacent ſcenery.

The founder of this caſtle is uncertain; the earlieſt account of it which has fallen under my obſervation, mentions that it belonged to Richard de Clare, earl of Gloceſter and Hereford, who flouriſhed in the reign of Henry the third, and on whoſe death, in 1262 *, Maud, his widow, had an aſſignation of the caſtle and manor

* He was buried in the church of Tewkſbury, and an epitaph placed over his tomb, which aſcribes to him the modeſty of Hippolitus, the beauty of Paris, the wiſdom of Ulyſſes, the piety of Æneas, and the wrath of Hector:

" Hic pudor Hippoliti, Paridis gena, ſenſus Uliſſis,
" Æneæ pietas, Hectoris ira jacet."

Dugdale's Baronage, vol. 1. p. 213.

manor of Uſk, as part of her dower. We have therefore reaſon to conclude, that it came to him by inheritance, from his anceſtors the earls of Clare, who ſubdued Nether-went. The firſt invaders of theſe parts were Walter and Gilbert de Clare, who flouriſhed in the reign of Henry the firſt; and the conqueſt was completed by their immediate ſucceſſors *. The general character of the building ſeems to corroborate the opinion, that it was built in the Norman æra.

On the death of Gilbert de Clare, laſt earl of Gloceſter, of that line, in 1314, his ſiſter Eliſabeth conveyed the caſtle of Uſk, together with his other vaſt poſſeſſions, to her huſband John de Burgh, ſon of Richard earl of Ulſter. Their ſon William left an only daughter, Eliſabeth, who eſpouſed Lionel duke of Clarence, third ſon of Edward the third, and united by this marriage the vaſt inheritance of the families of De Burgh and Clare.

His only daughter Philippa married Edmund Mortimer earl of March, great grandſon of Roger de Mortimer, the minion of queen Iſabella, who, in 1330, was executed and attainted for the murder of Edward the ſecond. In 1369 Edmund had livery of all his caſtles and lands. He was a puiſſant peer, bearing the titles of earl of March and Ulſter, lord of Wigmore, Clare and Connaught, and marſhal of England. In 1379 he was conſtituted lord lieutenant of Ireland; and as Dugdale ſays, "accordingly went thither, there to make his abode; and ſo tamed the barbarouſneſs of that rude people, by deſtroying ten or eleven of their petty kings within the ſpace of half a year, that he regained almoſt all his lands in Ulſter, which the Iriſh had for a long time enjoyed: and proceeding farther into that country, what with his prudent conduct, affability to the natives, kindneſs, and eloquent expreſſions, that within two years and a half he reduced all thoſe parts to obedience: cauſing divers oaks of an extraordinary length to be ſent into Ireland, from his woods of Pennalt, in the territory of Uſke in Wales, wherewith he formed a ſtrong bridge, with purpoſe to ſet over the river Banne, near to the town of Kolleroth, which was a principal harbour for the rebels, at both ends whereof he raiſed a fort, (beſides one in the midſt) to the end it might be a ſafeguard to himſelf and his own ſoldiers, and an effectual deſtruction to the enemy †.

Edmund

* See the Pedigree of the Clare family, in the chapter on Chepſtow.

† Dugdale, vol. 1. p. 149.

Edmund was prematurely overtaken by death in the midſt of his great exploits; in 1381 he deceaſed at Cork, in the 29th year of his age. His body was, by his own expreſs deſire, depoſited in the cathedral of Cork, until the fleſh was conſumed; his bones were tranſlated to Wigmore, and honourably entombed with the lady Philippa his wife, and two rhyming epitaphs in Latin were inſcribed over their aſhes *.

Edmund left iſſue three ſons and two daughters. His ſecond ſon, ſir Edmund Mortimer, knight, was taken priſoner by Owen Glendower in 1403, an event which has given riſe to much confuſion, as he has been miſtaken by hiſtorians for his nephew. The youngeſt ſon, ſir John, was impriſoned in the tower, and executed in 1424, under the charge of attempting to eſcape, and raiſe an inſurrection in Wales †.

Roger, the eldeſt ſon and heir, was born at Uſk in 1374, and baptiſed by William, biſhop of Hereford, having for his godfathers the biſhop of Landaff and the abbot of Gloceſter, and the prioreſs of Uſk for his godmother. In the parliament, held 1386, he was declared, in virtue of his deſcent from Lionel duke of Clarence, heir apparent to the crown. After doing homage, and receiving livery of all his lands, he followed, in 1396, the king into Ireland, with a retinue of two bannerets, eight knights, ninety-eight men at arms, two hundred archers on horſeback, and four hundred on foot. In 1399, being lord lieutenant of Ireland, he was ſlain as he incautiouſly advanced before his army in an Iriſh habit.

His eldeſt ſon, Edmund, who was only ſix years old, being rightful heir to the crown, was detained in cuſtody at Windſor, by the jealouſy of the new ſovereign, Henry the fourth. His uncle, ſir Edmund Mortimer, after his capture, having leagued with Owen Glendower and Henry Percy, to dethrone Henry the fourth and raiſe his nephew to the crown, the young earl was ſecretly conveyed from priſon, but retaken in his journey to Wales, and detained in cloſer cuſtody than before. From this ſtate he was delivered by the magnanimity of Henry the fifth,

* " Vir conſtans, gratus, ſapiens, benè nuper amatus;
" Nunc nece proſtratus, ſub marmore putret humatus.
" Hic jacet Edmundus moriens Corke corpore mundus;
" Siſque pius Chriſte ſibi, quem lapis opprimit iſte."
" Nobilis hîc tumulata jacet comitiſſa Philippa,
" Actibus hæc nituit larga, benigna fuit.
" Regum ſanguis erat, morum probitate vigebat
" Compaciens inopi, vivit in arce cœli."
Dugdale, vol. 1. p. 150.

† Rapin, vol. 4. p. 333.

fifth, who, though well aware of his prior right to the throne, not only releaſed him from confinement, but treated him with great kindneſs, and even gave him the livery of all his lands, which rendered him the moſt powerful ſubject in the kingdom. Influenced by theſe marks of goodneſs, the earl of March forgot his ſuperior title, ſerved his ſovereign with unſhaken fidelity, and repeatedly followed him to the combat at the head of his numerous retainers. He did not long ſurvive his royal friend and benefactor, but died in the third of Henry the ſixth, leaving no iſſue by his wife Anne, the daughter of Edmund earl of Stafford.

His vaſt poſſeſſions were aſſigned to his nephew Richard duke of York, ſon of his ſiſter Anne, by Richard earl of Cambridge. The caſtle of Uſk was a favourite reſidence of this deſcendant and father of kings; according to Churchyard*, who is more accurate than poetical, it was diſtinguiſhed by the births of his two ſons, who afterwards became Edward the fourth, and Richard the third †.

On the death of Richard the third, his property, with the caſtle of Uſk, came into the poſſeſſion of Henry the ſeventh, in virtue of his marriage with the daughter

* "A caſtle there, in Uſke doth yet remaine,
"A ſeate where kings and princes have been borne:
"It ſtands full on a goodly pleaſant plaine;
"The walls whereof, and towers are all to torne."
"King Edward the fourth, and his children (as
"ſome affirme) and King Richard the third, were
"borne here."
Churchyard's Worthines of Wales, p. 19.

† RICHARD DE CLARE, Earl of Gloceſter and Lord of Uſk, d. 1262 = Maud, dr. of John de Lacy Earl of Lincoln, 2d wife.

Gilbert de Clare, d. 1295 = Joan of Acre, dr. of Edward 1, by Eleanor of Caſtile, d. 1305.

Maud = Gilbert, ſlain at the battle of Bannocksburn, 1314.

John de Burgh, ſon of Richard = Eliſabeth, 3d dr. Earl of Ulſter, 1313.

William de Burgh, 3d = Maud, dr. of Henry Earl of Ulſter, 1333. | Earl of Lancaſter.

Lionel Duke of Clarence, 1352, ſon of = Eliſabeth de Burgh, 1363. Edward III. 1368.

Edmund Mortimer, 3d Earl of March, and Earl = Philippa of Clarence, Counteſs of Ulſter, and heireſs of Uſk. of Ulſter, 1381.

Edmund. Sir John, executed 1424.

Roger, Earl of March, &c. ſlain 1399 = Eleanor, dr. of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent.

Edmund, d. 1425 = Anne, dr. of Edmund Earl of Stafford. ſ. p.

Richard Earl of Cambridge = Anne Mortimer, ſiſter and heireſs of her 1415. brother Edmund.

Richard, Duke of York, &c. d. 1460 = Cecilia, dr. of Ralph Nevil, Earl of Weſtmoreland.

Edward IV. 1483. Richard III. 1485.

ter of Edward the fourth. It afterwards belonged to William, firſt earl of Pembroke, of the ſecond branch of the Herbert family Philip, his fourth deſcendant, dying in 1683 without iſſue male, his only daughter and heireſs conveyed it to Thomas, viſcount Windſor.

The eſtates in Monmouthſhire, poſſeſſed by this ſecond branch, were ſcarcely inferior to thoſe of the firſt earl of Pembroke of the Herbert line. Philip, the laſt proprietor of Uſk caſtle, could have paſſed almoſt the whole way, through his own manors, from the vicinity of Monmouth to Newton Down, beyond Cowbridge in Glamorganſhire, a diſtance of nearly ſixty miles. The truſtees of his daughter, in their annual circuit, during her minority, were not unfrequently eſcorted by more than fifteen hundred of her tenants and dependants from Chepſtow to the caſtle at Caerdiff, where the accounts were audited and the rents received. Hence ſome notion may be formed of the great eſtates and influence once poſſeſſed by the earls of Pembroke in Monmouthſhire, although they do not at preſent retain one ſolitary manor or eſtate in the whole county*.

The caſtle was purchaſed from their grandſon Herbert, viſcount Windſor †, with

* From William Jones, eſq.

† Sir Richard Herbert of Ewyas, 1460, ſon of William Herbert, firſt Earl of Pembroke. = Margaret, dr. and heireſs of Sir Matthew Cradock, Knight.

Anne, ſiſterand heireſs of William Marquis of Northampton. = 1. Sir William, cr. Baron Herbert of Caerdiff, and Earl of Pembroke, 1551. d. 1569. = Ann, dr. of George Earl of Shrewſbury, and widow of P. Compton, Eſq.

Henry, d. 1601. = Mary, third wife, dr. of Sir Henry Sidney.

3. William d. 1630. = Mary, dr. and coheireſs of Gilbert Earl of Shrewſbury.

Henry d. young.

Penelope, dr. and heireſs of Sir R. Naunton, and widow of Paul Viſcount Banning. = 5. Philip, d. 1669.

Susan dr. of Edward Earl of Oxford. = 4. Philip, d. 1630. = Anne, dr. and heir of George Earl of Cumberland, widow of Richard Earl of Dorſet.

Catherine, dr. of Sir William Villiers, Baronet.

6. William d. 1674.

7. Philip d. 1683. = Henrietta de Querouaille.

8. Thomas.

1 John Lord Jeffries, d. 1702. = CHARLOTTE, heireſs of Uſk caſtle.

2 Thomas Viſcount Windſor and Lord Montjoy, d. 1738.

Henrietta, m. Earl of Pomfret.

Herbert, who ſold Uſk caſtle, d. 1758. = Alice, dr. of Sir John, and eldeſt ſiſter and co-heireſs of Sir James Cavering, Baronet.

Charlotte Jane, m. to John Lord Mountſtewart, now Marquis of Bute.

Alice Elizabeth, firſt wife of Lord Beauchamp, now Marquis of Hertford.

with a large contiguous property, at auction, by Valentine Morris of Piercefield, who, unable to pay the depoſit, ſold it to lord Clive, of whom it was bought by the preſent duke of Beaufort.

The church is an ancient edifice, and ſeems to have been conſtructed in the Anglo Norman æra; it was originally much larger, and built in the ſhape of a cathedral. The ſquare embattled tower which now ſtands at the eaſt end, occupied the center, and communicated with a tranſept and choir, which no longer exiſt, but of which traces are viſible on the outſide. The architecture of this tower bears a Norman character, as is evident from its columns and circular arches.

The remaining parts have been either rebuilt, or undergone great additions, alterations, and repairs. Four pointed arches ſeparate the nave from a north aiſle; the windows are ornamented gothic, and the porches, in the ſame ſtyle of architecture, are not inelegant.

In the church is a long and narrow braſs plate, formerly chained to the wall, but now nailed on the top of the partition between two pews, near the chancel, bearing an inſcription, of which a fac ſimile has been given by Harris, and copied in the late edition of Camden. From an erroneous explanation, it is ſuppoſed to be a mixture of Latin and Britiſh, and has been adduced as a proof of the long reſidence of the Romans* in theſe parts. It has been interpreted by the learned Dr. Wotton, as an epitaph on a profeſſor of aſtronomy, and head of a college of two hundred philoſophers, whom Geoffrey of Monmouth, and Alexander Elſibienſis, place at Caerleon before the arrival of the Saxons. This illuſtration was adopted by the Rev. Theophilus Evans, who never ſaw the inſcription, in a Welſh publication called the Mirror, printed in 1740, and has been followed by all ſucceeding writers on the ſubject. But the beſt judges of the Welſh language, are decidedly of opinion, that the inſcription is wholly Welſh, and written in the dialect of Gwent uſed in the middle ages; it is alſo evident, that there is not the ſmalleſt reference to Caerleon, and that the letters which Dr. Wotton miſtook for that word, are 'yar lle'yn, and have a very different ſignification. As the

* Harris, in Archæologia, vol. 2. 19. Strange, in Archæologia, vol. 6. p. 12.

R.H. del.ᵗ W.B. direx.ᵗ

USK CHURCH.

Published March 1.1800. by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

R.H. del.ᵗ W.B. direx.ᵗ

PORCH OF USK PRIORY.

Published March 1.1800. by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

the beſt critics in the Welſh language have differed eſſentially concerning the meaning of the inſcription, I, who am totally unacquainted with the language, cannot preſume to give any opinion; but ſhall refer the reader to the diſſertation in the appendix.

This church belonged to the priory, of which the remains ſtill exiſt on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the tower. A circular arched portal leads from the church-yard through the court, to the ancient edifice, which is now a farm houſe. It was a priory of five benedictine nuns, founded by the earls of Clare, who poſſeſſed the caſtle. We learn from Tanner, that it was eſtabliſhed before 1236, and the nuns were accuſtomed to pray for ſir Richard de Clare, and Gilbert his ſon, earls of the Marches, as their founders. According to Dugdale, they were endowed with £. 55. 4s. 5d. per annum; and on the diſſolution, the ſite was granted to Roger Williams *, of Langibby, grandfather of ſir Trevor Williams. It was ſold by ſome of his deſcendants, belonged to the late alderman Hayley; and forms part of his widow's jointure. An apartment on the firſt floor is not unworthy of notice, as the frieze is ornamented with thirty devices, and emblazoned coats of arms; ſeveral of which probably belonged to the founders and benefactors of the priory, or to the proprietors of the caſtle.

Part of the common priſon, which is ſituated near the bridge, was formerly an ancient Roman catholic chapel; the gothic doorway, which formed the ſouthern entrance, ſtill remains; another gothic doorway to the north is filled up; the principal vaultings of the roof, with the cornice ornamented with dentels are viſible.

At Uſk I had the good fortune to dine in company with the principal gentlemen of the county, who were aſſembled for the purpoſe of procuring a renewal of the turnpike act. They unanimouſly proffered their ſervices to forward my reſearches, and in the courſe of my tour, I experienced from them great marks of hoſpitality, and received many and intereſting communications.

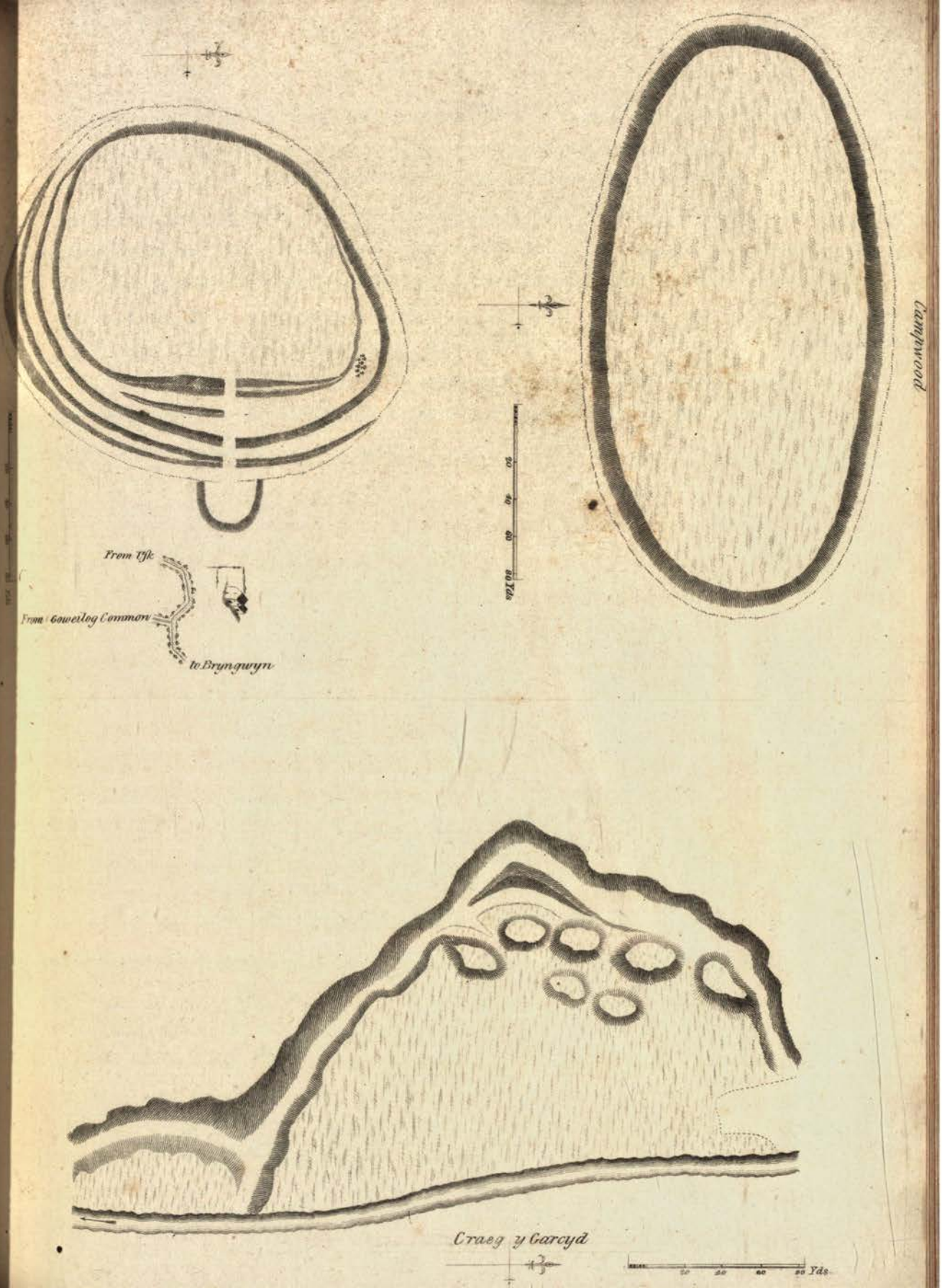
In the vicinity of Uſk are three ancient encampments, Craeg y Gaercyd, Campwood, and Coed y Bunedd. Craeg y Gaercyd is mentioned by Harris, as a Roman camp,

* Tanner. See alſo Jones's Index to Records of the Exchequer, vol. 1. art. Williams.

camp, merely becauſe ſome Roman coins are ſaid to have been diſcovered at Stavernen houſe, an adjacent manſion, but of which I could not diſcover any tradition. It is ſituated two miles from the town, to the eaſt of the Pont y Pool road, on the brow of a precipice overhanging the right bank of the Uſk; the ſite is overgrown with thickets and brambles, and the entrenchments are in many places thirty feet deep; at the north-weſtern ſide are ſeveral tumuli, ſome of which are from 15 to 20 feet in height. The ſhape does not in the leaſt indicate a Roman character; it may have been either a Britiſh fortreſs, or an entrenchment thrown up, during ſome of the repeated aſſaults, to which the caſtle of Uſk was ſubject, in feudal times. In viſiting this encampment, I paſſed the ſmall torrent called Berddin, from which ſome writers have derived the name of Burrium, as being placed at its confluence with the Uſk.

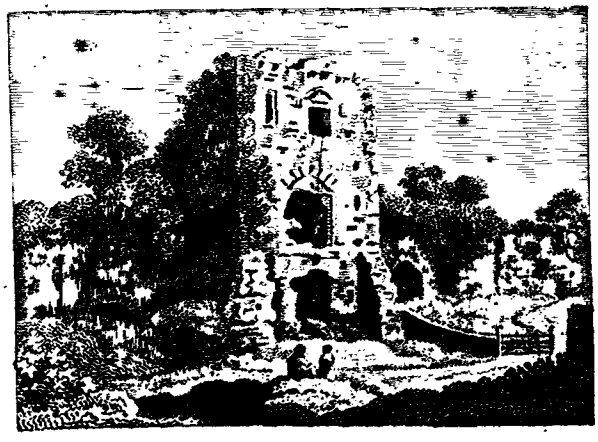
The two other camps are on the oppoſite ſide of the river, to the eaſt of the high road leading from Uſk to Abergavenny. Campwood, two miles from the town, above the wild and ſequeſtered common of Gwhelwg, is of an oval ſhape, encloſed by a ſingle ditch, and comprehending a circumference of 700 yards; it is wholly overgrown with wood, from which circumſtance it derives its appellation.

The encampment of Coed y Bunedd is formed on the ſummit of a commanding eminence, at the extremity of the Clytha hills, about four miles from Uſk, and to the weſt of the turnpike road leading to Abergavenny; it is a ſmall camp of 480 yards in circumference within the ramparts, but of conſiderable ſtrength. The weſtern and northern ſides being precipitous, are bounded by a ſingle entrenchment; the other ſides are fortified with triple ditches and ramparts. The entrance is covered by a tumulus, which rendered the acceſs extremely difficult, and appears to have been fortified at each extremity with towers, of which the foundations ſtill remain. It was originally ſtrengthened with walls, and many of the ſtones lie ſcattered on the ſides and tops of the ramparts. The form of the area incloſed by the inner entrenchment may be eaſily traced, as it is without a ſingle tree; it follows the nature of the ground, and nearly reſembles the ſhape of a D; a circumſtance very common in the encampments of


Campwood
20 40 60 80 Yds
From Usk
From Goweilog Common
to Bryngwyn
Craeg y Garcyd
20 40 60 80 Yds

Monmouthſhire: Juſt beyond its northern extremity, nearly on the verge of the eminence, is a tuft of trees, which is a conſpicuous and beautiful object from the ſubjacent country. The weſtern ſide overhangs the meandering Uſk, and commands a beautiful view of the northern parts of the county, which will amply repay the traveller for the trouble of aſcending the ſummit. It is moſt admirably calculated for an exploratory camp, and was connected by roads on one ſide with the poſt of Campwood, and on the other, over a ford of the Uſk, near Kemeys commander, with Craeg y Gaërcyd.

The character is Britiſh, but the ſtrait roads, exhibiting veſtiges of paved cauſeways, diverging from it in all directions, favour a conjecture, that it was once occupied by the Romans.



KEEP OF USK CASTLE

CHAPTER 15.

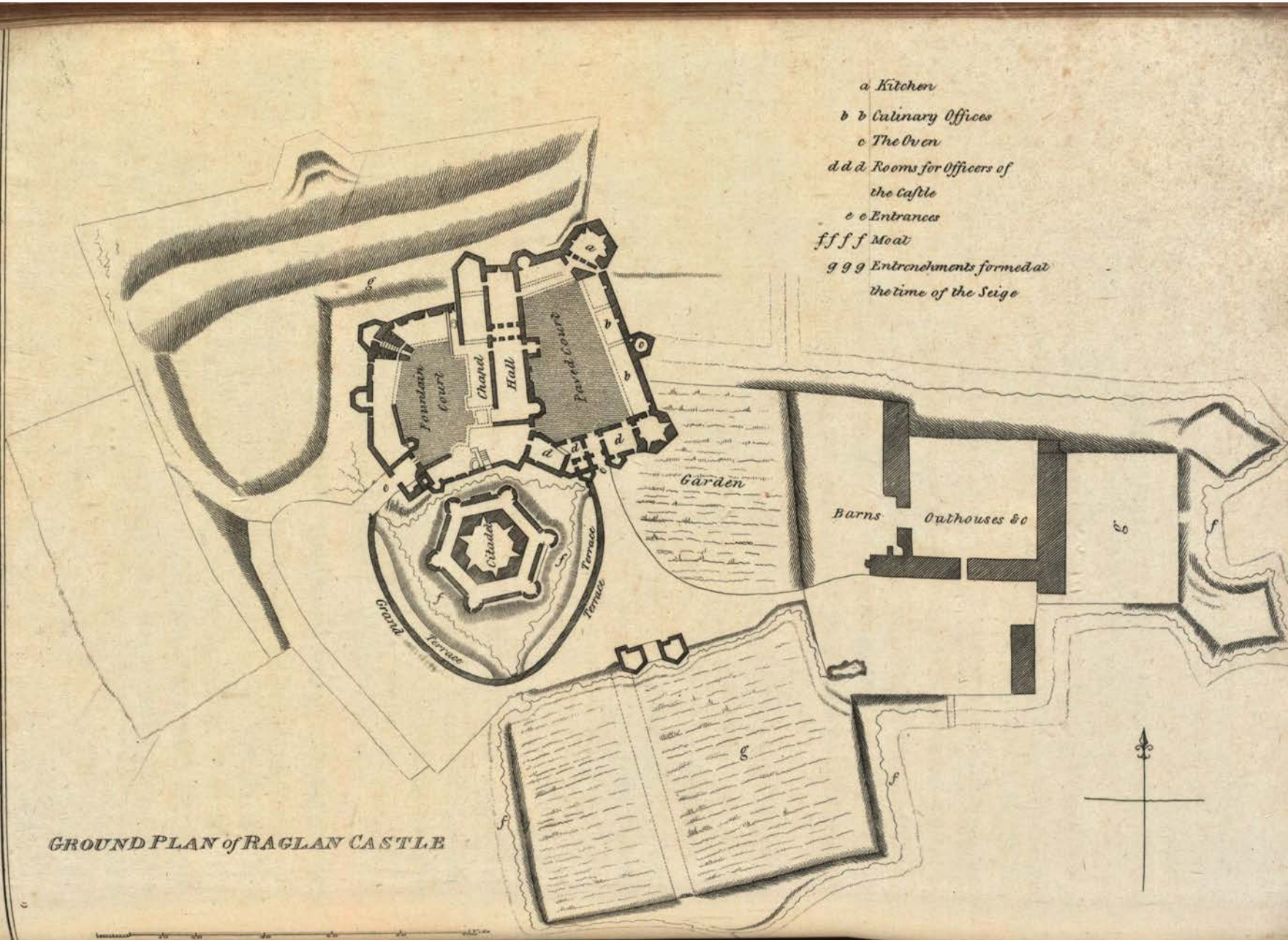
Raglan Caſtle.—Hiſtory.—Proprietors.—Anecdotes of William Herbert Earl of Pembroke, of Sir Charles Somerſet firſt Earl, and of Henry firſt Marquis, of Worceſter.—Siege, Surrender, and Demolition of the Caſtle.—Church.—Cemetery.—Character of Edward Earl of Glamorgan and ſecond Marquis of Worceſter.

RAGLAN caſtle is a principal object in the tour of Monmouthſhire; it is ſituated nearly in the center of the lowland part of the county, and may be viſited with the ſame eaſe from Chepſtow, Monmouth, Abergavenny and Uſk. During my ſucceſſive journies, I made ſeveral excurſions to it from different quarters, but found the route from Chepſtow, over the ridge of the Devaudon, more intereſting, and abounding with a greater variety of extenſive and beautiful views.

The caſtle ſtands on a gentle eminence near the village. At ſome diſtance, the ruins appeared only a heavy ſhapeleſs maſs, half hid by the intervening trees; on a nearer approach, they aſſumed a more diſtinct form, and preſented an aſſemblage highly beautiful and grand. Theſe majeſtic ruins, including the citadel, occupy a tract of ground, not leſs than one third of a mile in circumference.

The citadel, a detached building to the ſouth of the caſtle, is at preſent half demoliſhed, but was a large hexagon defended by baſtions, ſurrounded with a moat, and connected with the caſtle by means of a drawbridge; it was called Melyn y Gwent, or the yellow tower of Gwent, and when entire was five ſtories high. A ſtone ſtaircaſe leads to the top of a remaining tower, from whence we looked down on the outworks, and majeſtic ruins of the caſtle, and enjoyed a fine proſpect of an extenſive tract of country, bounded by the diſtant hills and

mountains



GROUND PLAN of RAGLAN CASTLE

mountains in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny. The citadel was ſurrounded with raiſed walks; in the walls with which they were bounded, are the veſtiges of niches, once ornamented with ſtatues of the Roman emperors.

The ſhell of the caſtle incloſes two courts or areas, each of which communicated with the terrace, by means of a gateway, and a bridge carried over the moat. The edifice was faced with hewn freeſtone, which has received little injury from time, and gives a light and elegant appearance to the ruins; it is of a whitiſh grey colour, beautifully grained, and as ſmooth as if it had been poliſhed.

Of theſe noble ruins, the grand entrance is the moſt magnificent; it is formed by a gothic portal, flanked with two maſſive towers; the one beautifully tufted with ivy, the ſecond ſo entirely covered, that not a ſingle ſtone is viſible. At a ſmall diſtance on the right appears a third tower, lower in height, almoſt wholly ivileſs, and with its machicolated ſummit, preſenting a highly pictureſque appearance. The porch, which ſtill contains the grooves for two portculliſſes, leads into the firſt court, once paved, but now covered with turf, and ſprinkled with ſhrubs. The eaſtern and northern ſides contained a range of culinary offices, of which the kitchen is remarkable for the ſize of the fireplace; the ſouthern ſide ſeems to have formed a grand ſuite of apartments, and the great bow window of the hall, at the ſouth-weſtern extremity of the court, is finely canopied with ivy. The ſtately hall which divides the two courts, and ſeems to have been built in the days of queen Eliſabeth, contains the veſtiges of ancient hoſpitality and ſplendour; the ceiling is fallen down, but the walls ſtill remain; it is ſixty feet in length, twenty-ſeven in breadth, and was the great banqueting room of the caſtle. At the extremity are placed the arms of the firſt marquis of Worceſter, ſculptured in ſtone, and ſurrounded with the garter; underneath is the family motto, which fully marks the character of the noble proprietor, who defended the caſtle with ſuch ſpirit againſt the parliamentary army; "Mutare vel timere ſperno;" "I ſcorn either to change or fear." The fireplace deſerves to be noticed, for its remarkable ſize, and the ſingular ſtructure of the chimney. This hall is occaſionally uſed as a five's court.

To the north of the hall are ranges of offices, which appear to have been

butteries; beyond are the traces of ſplendid apartments. In the walls above, I obſerved two chimney-pieces, in high preſervation, neatly ornamented with a light frieze and cornice: the ſtone frames of the windows are likewiſe in many parts, particularly in the ſouth front, diſtinguiſhed with mouldings and other decorations, which, Mr. Wyndham juſtly obſerves, would not be conſidered as inelegant, even at preſent.

The weſtern door of the hall led into the chapel, which is now dilapidated; but its ſituation is marked by ſome of the flying columns, riſing from groteſque heads, which ſupported the roof; at the upper end are two rude whole length figures, in ſtone, ſeveral yards above the ground, recently diſcovered by Mr. Heath * under the thick cluſters of ivy. Beyond the foundations of the chapel is the area of the ſecond court, ſkirted with a range of buildings, which, at the time of the ſiege, formed the barracks of the garriſon. Not the ſmalleſt traces remain of the marble fountain, which once occupied the center of the area, and was ornamented with the ſtatue of a white horſe.

Moſt of the apartments of this ſplendid abode were of grand dimenſions, and the communications eaſy and convenient. The ſtrength of the walls is ſtill ſo great, that if the parts yet ſtanding were roofed and floored, it might even now be formed into a magnificent and commodious habitation.

The ground-plan and views, which accompany this chapter, render it unneceſſary to enter into a minute deſcription of theſe extenſive ruins; I ſhall therefore only obſerve, that the immenſe expence and labour of erecting this enormous pile, are no leſs evident, from the large vaults and ſubterraneous cells, which are formed under the hall, courts, and ſurrounding apartments, than from the majeſtic remains which tower above ground.

From the ſecond court, a bridge thrown acroſs the moat leads to the platform, or terrace, which almoſt ſurrounds the citadel, and was much admired by king Charles the firſt; the ſouth-weſtern ſide is ſtill perfect, and forms a noble walk of

* Heath's Account of Raglan Caſtle, p. 72.. Mr. Heath, bookſeller of Monmouth, has collected in this publication ſome curious documents concerning the caſtle of Raglan and the Beaufort family, to which I am indebted for ſeveral anecdotes recorded in this chapter, from the Apothegms of the marquis of Worceſter.

of 60 feet in breadth, and 300 in length, commanding a pleaſing and extenſive view. At one extremity ſtands an ancient elm, which appears almoſt coeval with the earlieſt foundation of the caſtle; the trunk near the root is 28 feet 5 inches in circumference; there ſeems to have been a row of theſe venerable elms, for at a ſmall diſtance is another very old, but of inferior ſize.

The outworks, which were formed for the defence of the caſtle, before the ſiege, were too extenſive for the garriſon; their ſhape and dimenſions may be traced by the remains of baſtions, hornworks, trenches, and ramparts, which ſtill exiſt, and are laid down in the plan.

Churchyard, in his quaint verſification, deſcribes the ſumptuous appearance of the caſtle in the reign of queen Eliſabeth *, and a curious account of its ſtate, not long before the ſiege, is in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Jones of Piſtill: it is partly printed in the Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, and in Heath's Account of Raglan Caſtle.

Raglan caſtle is more modern than all the other caſtles in Monmouthſhire. If any parts of the old caſtellated manſion, which exiſted in the time of ſir John Morley, or his predeceſſors, ſtill remain in the preſent ſtructure, they have been ſo much altered, and adapted to the ſubſequent improvements, as not to be eaſily diſcriminated. The earlieſt ſtyle perceivable in the building is not anterior to the reign of Henry the fifth, and the more modern, as late as the æra of Charles the firſt; the faſhion of the arches, doors, and windows, and the ſtyle of the ornaments, are progreſſively of the intermediate ages. We may therefore aſcribe its conſtruction principally to ſir William ap Thomas, and his ſon the earl of Pembroke; parts were ſince added by the earls of Worceſter, and the citadel and outworks were probably erected by the gallant marquis, who laſt reſided in this ſumptuous manſion.

The great extent of the caſtle, the grandeur and number of the apartments, and the ſize of the offices and cellars, give proofs of baronial magnificence and ſplendid

* "Not farre from thence, a famous caſtle fine,
"That Raggland hight, ſtands moted almoſt round;
"Made of freeſtone, upright as ſtraight as line,
"Whoſe workmanſhip in beautie doth abound,
"The curious knots, wrought all with edged toole,
"The ſtately tower, that looks ore pond and poole,
"The fountain trim, that runs both day and night,
"Doth yield in ſhowe, a rare and noble ſight."
The Worthines of Wales, p. 6.

ſplendid hoſpitality, ſcarcely conceivable in the preſent times. The grand eſtabliſhment of the firſt marquis of Worceſter is recorded in the above mentioned account of Raglan caſtle; the numerous officers of his houſhold, retainers, attendants, and ſervants, appear like the retinue of a ſovereign rather than a ſubject. He ſupported, for a conſiderable time, a garriſon of eight hundred men; and on the ſurrender of the caſtle, beſides his own family and friends, the officers alone were no leſs than four colonels, eighty-two captains, ſixteen lieutenants, ſix cornets, four enſigns, and four quartermaſters, beſides fifty-two eſquires and gentlemen.

The demeſnes of the caſtle correſponded with the magnitude of the eſtabliſhment; beſides the gardens and pleaſure-grounds adjoining to the manſion, the farms were numerous and well conditioned; the meadows around Landenny were appropriated for the dairy; an extenſive tract of land, clothed with oak and beech, formed the home park, and the red deer park ſtretched beyond Landeilo Creſſeney.

In the thirteenth century, the great family of Clare ſeem to have poſſeſſed a caſtle at Raglan. According to Dugdale, Richard Strongbow, the laſt male of this puiſſant line, gave, in the reign of Henry the ſecond, the caſtle and manor of Raglan, in the county of Monmouth, to Walter Bloet, whoſe deſcendant Eliſabeth, ſole daughter and heir of ſir John Bloet, brought it to ſir James Berkley; to this ſir James Berkeley and to his wife, Henry the fourth, in 1399, confirmed the town and caſtle of Raglan *; and on his death, in 1405, they came by intail to his ſon James lord Berkley, who died in 1463.

Such is the account given by Dugdale in one part of his baronage, from documents preſerved in the caſtle of Berkley. In another paſſage of the ſame work, he aſſerts, on the authority of papers, in the poſſeſſion of lord Herbert of Cherbury, that ſir John Morley, knight, who lived in the reign of Richard the ſecond, reſided in this caſtle, and that his daughter and heireſs conveyed it, by marriage, into the family of Herbert †.

Without

* Art. Berkley. "To this ſir James and Eliſabeth, "king Henry the fourth, in the firſt year of his reign, "confirmed the town and caſtle of Raglan in Com. "Monmouth, which earl Richard, ſon to earl Gilbert, "had given to Walter Blewit, his anceſtor, and his "heirs. Temp. H. 2." Dugdale's Baronage, vol. 1. p. 361. See alſo Collins's Peerage, art. Berkley.

† Art. Lord Herbert of Cherbury.

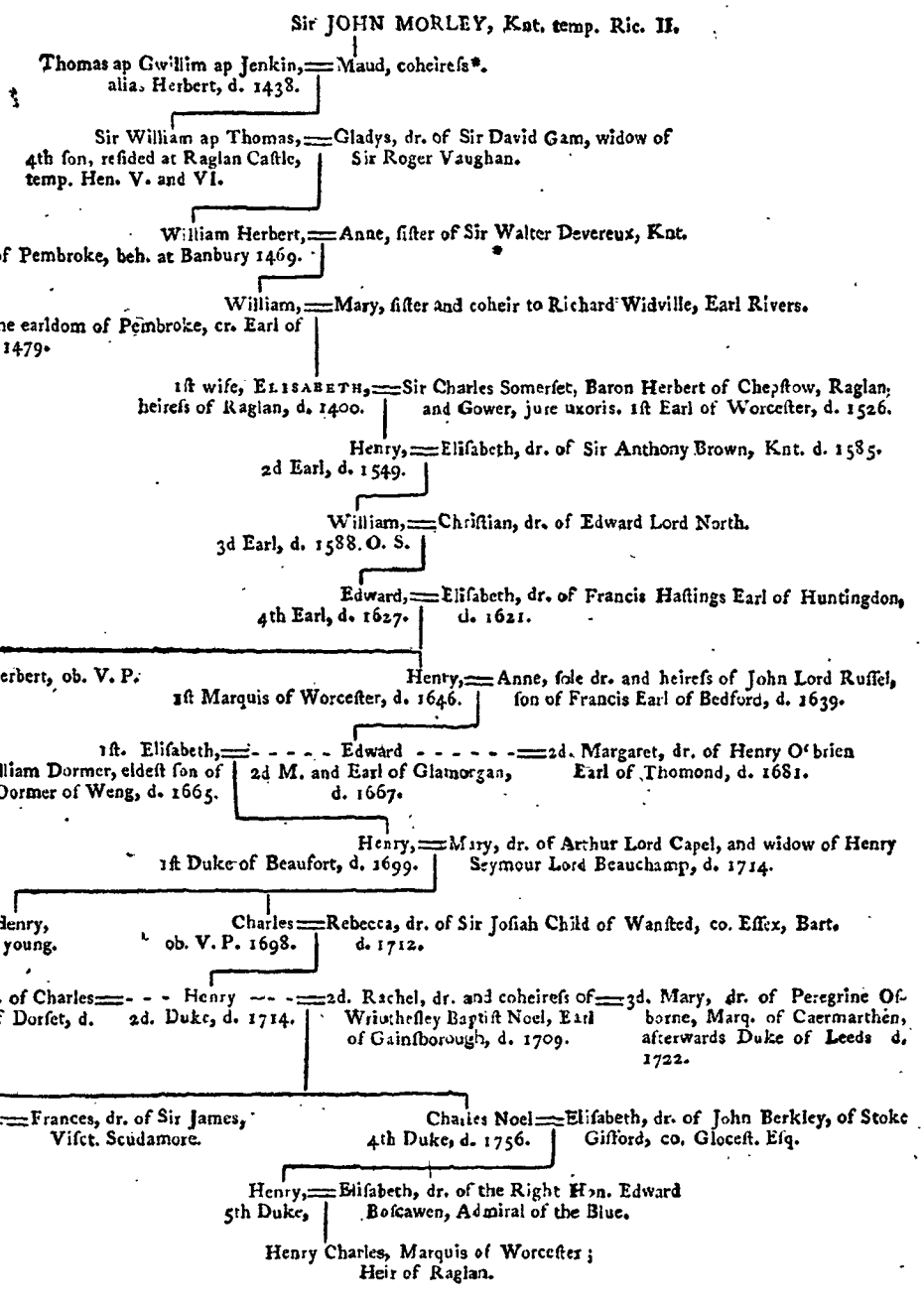
R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

INSIDE VIEW OF RAGLAN CASTLE.

Published March 2. 1800. by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

(To face p. 141).

PROPRIETORS OF RAGLAN CASTLE,


Sir JOHN MORLEY, Knt. temp. Ric. II.
Thomas ap Gwillim ap Jenkin, alias. Herbert, d. 1438.
Maud, coheireſs*.
Sir William ap Thomas, 4th ſon, reſided at Raglan Caſtle, temp. Hen. V. and VI.
Gladys, dr. of Sir David Gam, widow of Sir Roger Vaughan.
William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, beh. at Banbury 1469.
Anne, ſiſter of Sir Walter Devereux, Knt.
William, ſurrendered the earldom of Pembroke, cr. Earl of Huntingdon, 1479.
Mary, ſiſter and coheir to Richard Widville, Earl Rivers.
1ſt wife, ELISABETH, heireſs of Raglan, d. 1400.
Sir Charles Somerſet, Baron Herbert of Cheyſtow, Raglan, and Gower, jure uxoris. 1ſt Earl of Worceſter, d. 1526.
Henry, 2d Earl, d. 1549.
Eliſabeth, dr. of Sir Anthony Brown, Knt. d. 1585.
William, 3d Earl, d. 1588. O. S.
Chriſtian, dr. of Edward Lord North.
Edward, 4th Earl, d. 1627.
Eliſabeth, dr. of Francis Haſtings Earl of Huntingdon, d. 1621.
William Lord Herbert, ob. V. P.
Henry, 1ſt Marquis of Worceſter, d. 1646.
Anne, ſole dr. and heireſs of John Lord Ruſſel, ſon of Francis Earl of Bedford, d. 1639.
1ſt. Eliſabeth, dr. of Sir William Dormer, eldeſt ſon of Robert Lord Dormer of Weng, d. 1665.
Edward, 2d M. and Earl of Glamorgan, d. 1667.
2d. Margaret, dr. of Henry O'brien Earl of Thomond, d. 1681.
Henry, 1ſt Duke of Beaufort, d. 1699.
Mary, dr. of Arthur Lord Capel, and widow of Henry Seymour Lord Beauchamp, d. 1714.
Henry, d. young.
Charles, ob. V. P. 1698.
Rebecca, dr. of Sir Joſiah Child of Wanſted, co. Eſſex, Bart. d. 1712.
1ſt. Mary only dr. of Charles Sackville Earl of Dorſet, d. 1705.
Henry, 2d. Duke, d. 1714.
2d. Rachel, dr. and coheireſs of Wriothefley Baptiſt Noel, Earl of Gainſborough, d. 1709.
3d. Mary, dr. of Peregrine Oſborne, Marq. of Caermarthen, afterwards Duke of Leeds d. 1722.
Henry, 3d Duke, d. 1745.
Frances, dr. of Sir James, Viſct. Scudamore.
Charles Noel, 4th Duke, d. 1756.
Eliſabeth, dr. of John Berkley, of Stoke Gifford, co. Gloceſt. Eſq.
Henry, 5th Duke,
Eliſabeth, dr. of the Right Hon. Edward Boſcawen, Admiral of the Blue.
Henry Charles, Marquis of Worceſter; Heir of Raglan.

* In the ſepulchral inſcription in Lanſanfraed church (ſee p. 157) Maud is called daughter and *coheir* to Sir John Morley; yet I have not been able to diſcover any other daughter. It appears alſo, from the ſame inſcription, that their ſon and *heir* was Philip: hence I have, perhaps erroneouſly, called him the eldeſt ſon (p. 155); for, according to a pedigree in the Heralds' office, inſerted in the Appendix No. 8. Gwillim ap Jenkin had four ſons, Howell, Philip, Jenan, and Sir William ap Thomas. Howell was probably the anceſtor of the Powells of Perthîr (ſee p. 314). Philip was ſeated at Lanſanfraed; of Jenan I can find no account; and Sir William ap Thomas, the youngeſt, obtained Raglan caſtle.

Without attempting to reconcile theſe contradictory accounts, I ſhall only obſerve, that Raglan caſtle does not appear to have continued in the poſſeſſion of the Berkley family, and that ſir William ap Thomas *, ſon of Maud, daughter of ſir John Morley, by Thomas ap Gwillim ap Jenkin, who was ſeated at Lanſanfraed, was proprietor in the reign of Henry the fifth.

His eldeſt ſon, William, a man of diſtinguiſhed talents, both in the civil and military line, was created, by Edward the fourth, lord of Raglan, Chepſtow, and Gower. By the king's expreſs order, his pedigree was traced by four bards, who are called "chiefeſt men of ſkill, within the province of South Wales;" and he was commanded to diſcontinue the Welſh cuſtom of changing the ſurname at every deſcent, and to aſſume that of Herbert, in honour of his anceſtor Herbert Fitz Henry, who was chamberlain to king Henry the firſt †.

He was a great partiſan of the houſe of York, and in high confidence with Edward the fourth, who entruſted him with the cuſtody of the earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry the ſeventh. Richmond was detained for ſome time in the caſtle of Raglan, and treated with great humanity and attention. During the abſence of lord Herbert, he was delivered from his confinement by his uncle Jaſper, earl of Pembroke, and conveyed into Britany ‡.

In 1469 lord Herbert was created earl of Pembroke, on the attainder of Jaſper, and warmly exerted himſelf in favour of his ſovereign and benefactor, by raiſing an army of Welſhmen from his numerous retainers, and marching at their head to oppoſe the Lancaſtrians under the earl of Warwick. Being taken priſoner at the battle of Danes Moor, he was beheaded at Banbury. He met his fate with the moſt noble fortitude and reſignation, and gave a memorable inſtance of contempt of death, and fraternal affection: as he was laying his head on the block, he ſaid to ſir John Conyers, who ordered the execution, "Let me die, for I am old, but ſave my brother §, who is young, luſty, and hardy, mete and apt to ſerve the greateſt prince in Chriſtendom."

On

* See chapters 16 and 19.

† Pedigree of the Herberts in the Heralds Office, a copy of which is in the poſſeſſion of William Jones, Eſq. See alſo Dugdale, art. Herbert Earl of Pembroke.

‡ Buck's Life of Henry the Seventh.

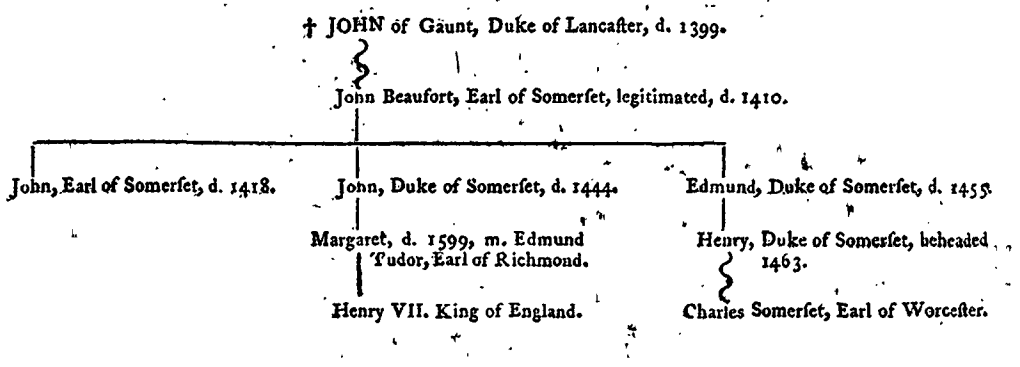
§ Sir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook; for an account of whom, ſee the chapter on the church of Abergavenny.

The earl of Pembroke was one of the richeſt and moſt puiſſant ſubjects of the realm. Dugdale has enumerated all the caſtles, manors, and lordſhips, of which he died ſeiſed; his titles, and the greater part of his poſſeſſions, together with the caſtle of Raglan, were inherited by his eldeſt ſon William; but Edward the fourth, being deſirous to dignify his ſon the prince of Wales with the earldom of Pembroke, William reſigned that title, and was, in 1479, created earl of Huntingdon *. Dying in 1491 without iſſue male, his daughter and heireſs Eliſabeth conveyed to her huſband ſir Charles Somerſet, the caſtle of Raglan, and many other eſtates and honours.

Sir Charles Somerſet was natural ſon of Henry Beaufort, duke of Somerſet, who was beheaded in 1463 for his adherence to the houſe of Lancaſter. He poſſeſſed conſiderable talents, and on the acceſſion of Henry the ſeventh, to whom he was nearly allied in blood †, was rapidly advanced to high honours, and important offices of ſtate; he was ſucceſſively appointed a privy counſellor, admiral of the king's fleet at ſea, a knight banneret, knight of the garter, captain of the guards, and lord chamberlain; he was twice employed as embaſſador to the emperor Maximilian, the firſt time he conveyed the order of the garter, and the ſecond he concluded two treaties againſt the Turks. In theſe negotiations, and other arduous affairs, he increaſed his credit with Henry the ſeventh, by his conſummate addreſs and prudence.

His high favour with the king, and his perſonal attractions, procured his marriage

* The titles of baron Herbert of Raglan, Chepſtow, and Gower, were poſſeſſed by Sir Charles Somerſet in right of his wife; but it is remarkable, that the title of Huntingdon became extinct, and the earldom did not deſcend to the brother of the earl of Huntingdon. Probably the Earldom of Pembroke being ſurrendered to the crown, the new peerage was entailed only on the heirs male of the earl of Huntingdon, and not extended to all the grantees of the former title.


† JOHN of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaſter, d. 1399.
John Beaufort, Earl of Somerſet, legitimated, d. 1410.
John, Earl of Somerſet, d. 1418.
John, Duke of Somerſet, d. 1444.
Edmund, Duke of Somerſet, d. 1455.
Margaret, d. 1599, m. Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond.
Henry, Duke of Somerſet, beheaded 1463.
Henry VII. King of England.
Charles Somerſet, Earl of Worceſter.

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Sr. CHAs. SOMERSET 1st. EARL of WORCESTER.

From an Original Picture in the Poſſeſſion of the Duke of Beaufort.

Publiſhd 1 April 1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand

marriage with Eliſabeth, ſole daughter and heireſs of William earl of Huntingdon, and in her right, he bore the title of baron Herbert of Raglan, Chepſtow, and Gower.

The death of Henry the ſeventh did not impede his future riſe; he was equally beloved and eſteemed by the new ſovereign, who conferred on him additional honours, and higher dignities, which he amply deſerved by his meritorious conduct. He highly diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a ſoldier in the wars againſt France; at the ſiege of Teruenne, he commanded a diviſion of 6000 men, and greatly contributed to force the place to ſurrender. He behaved with no leſs ſkill and intrepidity at the ſiege and capture of Tournay, where he had high command. Being deputed, on the pacification, to reſtore it to France, he acted with a ſpirit and dignity, which are highly applauded by lord Herbert of Cherbury in his hiſtory of Henry the eighth; he would not permit the marſhal de Chatillon to enter Tournay with banners diſplayed, but furled; it being, he ſaid, yielded voluntarily, and not obtained by conqueſt. In 1518, he ratified the articles of peace with France, and in 1521 mediated the pacification between Francis the firſt and Charles the fifth. In reward for theſe great ſervices, he was appointed lord chamberlain for life, and advanced to the dignity of earl of Worceſter.

He had the honour of repreſenting the perſon of Henry the eighth, at the coronation of the princeſs Mary, queen of Louis the twelfth; and ſoon after the acceſſion of Francis the firſt, was commiſſioned to betroth the king's infant daughter to the infant dauphin, according to an article of the recent pacification. But a report being circulated, which gave riſe to much raillery among the wits of the times, that the young bridegroom was either not yet born, or had died ſoon after his birth, the earl of Worceſter, with his colleague the biſhop of Ely, were ordered to verify the child's exiſtence. They accordingly repaired to the caſtle of Amboiſe, where the queen reſided, and being introduced to the dauphin, affectionately embraced him *.

In theſe tranſactions he regulated his conduct with ſuch caution and prudence, that he never in the ſmalleſt degree loſt the favour of his capricious ſovereign,

or

* Polydore Virgil, p. 613.

or excited the jealouſy of the ſuſpicious and all powerful favourite cardinal Wolſey.

He died in 1526, full of honours, in an advanced age, and was buried in the chapel of Windſor. In virtue of his deſcent from the royal blood, he was permitted to aſſume the arms of England, which are ſtill borne by his illuſtrious deſcendant, the preſent duke of Beaufort.

Raglan caſtle continued to be the principal reſidence of his poſterity, and from the ſtrength of its fortifications, which were more adapted than the other caſtles to reſiſt the effects of artillery, was long conſidered as the chief fortreſs in Monmouthſhire.

The great event which diſtinguiſhes Raglan caſtle in the annals of Britiſh hiſtory, was the ſiege which it withſtood againſt the parliamentary army, under the command of Fairfax. It was valiantly defended by Henry, firſt marquis of Worceſter; and notwithſtanding its extenſive outworks, and ſcanty garriſon, had the honour of being almoſt the laſt fortreſs in the kingdom, reduced by the republican troops.

Henry, fifth earl, and firſt marquis of Worceſter, was born in 1562, and ſummoned to the firſt parliament of king James, during the life-time of his father. Though a man of ſuperior abilities, and great eſtate, he is only twice mentioned by Camden in his reign of James. Being a Roman Catholic, he was reprimanded by the king, for ſending his daughter to a nunnery at Bruſſels, and is maliciouſly cenſured, as being of the Spaniſh faction, and popiſhly inclined. In the reign of Charles the firſt, he highly diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his ſignal ſervices, and was one of the greateſt ſufferers in the royal cauſe; it was ſolely owing to his influence, and to the intrepidity with which he defended Raglan caſtle, that Monmouthſhire ſo long reſiſted the parliamentary arms.

In 1642, the year in which he was created marquis of Worceſter, he raiſed and ſupported an army of 1500 foot, and near 500 horſe, under the command of his ſon, lord Herbert, afterwards well known by the title of earl of Glamorgan; and when the ſkill and activity of the parliamentary generals had diſperſed this army, he maintained his poſition in Raglan caſtle, and retarded the annihilation of the king's authority in Monmouthſhire.

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HENRY SOMERSET, 1 MARQUIS of WORCESTER

Pubd Mar 20 1800 by Cadell & Davie: Strand.

In the midſt of the civil commotions, Charles the firſt made ſeveral viſits to Raglan caſtle, and was entertained with becoming magnificence. The marquis not only declined all offers of remuneration, but alſo advanced large ſums; and when the king thanked him for the loans, replied; "Sir, I had your word "for the money, but I never thought I ſhould be ſo ſoon repayed; for now you "have given me thanks, I have all I looked for." At another time, the king, apprehenſive leſt the ſtores of the garriſon ſhould be conſumed by his ſuite, empowered him to exact from the country ſuch proviſions as were neceſſary for his maintenance, and recruit; "I humbly thank your majeſty," he ſaid, "but "my caſtle will not ſtand long if it leans upon the country; I had rather be "brought to a morſel of bread, than any morſels of bread ſhould be brought me "to entertain your majeſty."

Several other converſations are detailed in a contemporary publication *, which prove the king's extreme condeſcenſion, and the frank garrulity of the venerable marquis. One in particular ought not to be omitted, which marks the foreſight of the marquis, proves the mildneſs of the king's diſpoſition, and his averſion to ſevere meaſures, amounting almoſt to weakneſs. Sir Trevor Williams, and four other principal gentlemen of Monmouthſhire, being arreſted for diſloyalty, and conducted to Abergavenny, the king was adviſed to order them to an immediate trial, which muſt have ended in their conviction; but Charles, moved by the tears and proteſtations of ſir Trevor Williams, ſuffered him to be releaſed, on bail, and committed the others only to a temporary confinement. "The king told the marqueſs what he had done, and that when he "ſaw them ſpeak ſo honeſtly, he could not but give ſome credit to their words, "ſo ſeconded by tears, and withal told the marqueſs that he had onely ſent them "to priſon; whereupon the marqueſs ſaid, what to do? to poyſon that gar-"riſon? Sir, you ſhould have done well to have heard their accuſations, and "then to have ſhewed what mercy you pleaſed. The king told him, that he heard "they were accuſed by ſome contrary faction, as to themſelves, who out of diſtaſt they

* "Witty Apothegms delivered at ſeveral times, and on ſeveral occaſions, by King James, King Charles I. and the Marquis of Worceſter." Lond. 1658, 8°. Another work, which was probably an abridgment of this, was printed in 1660, in one ſheet quarto.

" they bore to one another on old grudges, would be apt to charge them more " home than the nature of their offences had deſerved: to whom the marqueſs " made this return, " Well, Sir, you may chance to gain you the kingdom of " heaven by ſuch doings as theſe, but if ever you get the kingdom of England, " by ſuch wayes, I will be your bondman *."

Soon after the king's retreat from Monmouthſhire, the caſtle was ſlightly inveſted by ſir Trevor Williams, and threatened by colonel Morgan, who was advancing from Worceſter, at the head of a formidable detachment. The ſpirit of the aged marquis was not broken, and in anſwer to the firſt ſummons from colonel Morgan, dated June 3d, he refuſed to ſurrender, without the conſent of the king, who was then in Scotland. This propoſal being rejected, and colonel Morgan having blamed the marquis for maintaining a garriſon in Raglan caſtle againſt the parliament, he returned an anſwer which deſerves to be commemorated for its brevity and ſpirit.

" Worthy Sir, Ragland, June 4, 1646.

" I muſt intreate you to make the beſt conſtruction of the infirmities of an old " man, in that according to your time prefixed, you had not the returne of this, " which may give you full aſſurance that the true reaſon, if it were rightly " underſtood, of my keeping forces here, is not in defiance of the parliament, " but to preſerve myſelfe, according to the law of nature, from the inſolencies of " the common ſoldiers on both ſides; and ſeeing you think it not fit to grant " a reaſonable and civil requeſt, we muſt here, to the laſt man, ſell our lives as " deare as we can; this not out of obſtinacy, or any ill affection, but merely to " preſerve that honour that I deſire ſhould attend me at my death. God aſſiſt " them that are in the right. So I reſt your friend and ſervant,

" H. WORCESTER."

After the rejection of a ſecond ſummons, ſir Thomas Fairfax came from Bath to ſuperintend the ſiege in perſon. Under his inſpection, the approaches were carried on with great vigour, in ſpite of repeated ſallies; and the gallant veteran, finding

* Apothegms of the Marquis of Worceſter, quoted in Heath's Account of Raglan Caſtle.

finding his garriſon, which at firſt conſiſted of only 800 men, greatly reduced, and entertaining no expectations of relief, ſurrendered on honourable terms on the 17th of Auguſt. The principal perſons in the caſtle at the time of the evacuation, were, his ſixth ſon, lord Charles, his daughter in law, the counteſs of Glamorgan, ſir Philip and lady Jones, of Treowen, and the Rev. Dr. Bailey, ſub-dean of Wells; whoſe extraordinary life and writings are recorded by Anthony Wood, and in the Biographia Britannica *.

The marquis of Worceſter preſerved, under this ſad reverſe of circumſtances, the ſame calmneſs of temper, and facetious loquacity, which had marked his character in his proſperous days. The author of his apothegms has recorded a ſingular converſation, which paſſed between him and ſir Thomas Fairfax, on the ſurrender of the caſtle †.

In

* Thomas Bayly was youngeſt ſon of Lewis Bayly, biſhop of Bangor, and author of "The Practice of Piety." He was educated at Cambridge, but took his degree of Doctor in Divinity in the univerſity of Oxford. In 1638 he was made ſub-dean of Wells; and in 1646, according to Anthony Wood, acted as a commiſſioned officer in the defence of Raglan caſtle. He principally framed the articles of capitulation, and attended the marquis of Worceſter to the hour of his death. After that event, he went abroad, and returning to England, publiſhed a Book, entitled "Certamen Religioſum, or a Conference concerning Religion, between king Charles the firſt, and the late marquis of Worceſter, in Ragland caſtle. An. 1646." Lond. 8°. 1649. But this publication was conſidered as a prelude to his profeſſion of the Roman catholic religion, and, perhaps without ſufficient foundation, deemed a fabrication of his own. He publiſhed ſeveral treatiſes in favour of monarchy and epiſcopacy, and having too freely cenſured the Commonwealth, was impriſoned in Newgate. Eſcaping from his confinement, he repaired to Holland, and, to uſe Anthony Wood's quaint expreſſions, "having rambled abroad, "much more in his mind, than he had in his body, "he at laſt declared himſelf a Roman catholic." After writing ſeveral treatiſes in favour of that religion, he wandered from place to place, and died at Bononi. His end is uncertain, but he appears to have ſerved as a common ſoldier, and to have died obſcurely in an hoſpital. He is by ſome ſuppoſed to have been the author of the "Witty Apothegms" before-mentioned. See Wood's Athenæ Oxonienſis, vol. 1. art. 694.

† "After much conference between the marqueſs "and general Fairfax, wherein many things were re-"queſted of the general by the marqueſs, and being, "as he thought himſelf, happy in the attainment, "his lordſhip was pleaſed make a merry petition to "the general, as he was taking his leave, viz. in the "behalf of a couple of pigeons, who were wont to "come to his hand, and feed out of it conſtantly, in "whoſe behalf he deſired the general, that he would "be pleaſed to give him his protection for them, fear-"ing the little command that he ſhould have over his "ſoldiers in that behalf. To which the general ſaid, "I am glad to ſee your lordſhip ſo merry; Oh, ſaid the "marqueſs, you have given me no other cauſe, and "as haſty as you are, you ſhall not go until I have "told you a ſtory.

"There were two men going up Holborn in a cart "to be hanged; one of them being very merry and "jocond, gave offence unto the other, who was ſad "and dejected, inſomuch as that the downcaſt man "ſaid unto the other, I wonder brother that you can "be ſo frolick, conſidering the buſineſs that we are "going about. Tuſh, anſwered the other, thou art a "fool, thou wenteſt a thieving, and never thought "what would become of thee, wherefore being on a "ſudden

In the correſpondence with Fairfax, which preceded the capitulation, the marquis of Worceſter ſeems to have ſtrongly ſuſpected, that the parliament would not adhere to the conditions. His apprehenſions were not groundleſs, for on his arrival in London, he was committed to the cuſtody of the Black Rod. He bitterly complained of this cruel uſage, and deeply regretted that he had truſted himſelf to the *mercy* of parliament; a few hours before his death, he ſaid to Dr. Bayley, "If to ſeize upon all my goods, to pull down my houſe, to ſell my "eſtate, and ſend for up ſuch a weak body as mine was, ſo enfeebled by diſeaſe, "in the dead of winter, and the winter of mine age, be merciful, what are they "whoſe mercies are ſo cruel? Neither do I expect that they ſhould ſtop at all "this, for I fear they will perſecute me after death."

Being informed, however, that parliament would permit him to be buried in his family vault, in Windſor chapel; he cried out, with great ſprightlineſs of manner, "Why, God bleſs us all, why then I ſhall have a better caſtle when I "am dead, than they took from me whilſt I was alive." With ſo much cheerfulneſs and reſignation did this hero expire, in the eighty-fifth year of his age.

The loſſes which the marquis and his family ſuſtained, in ſupport of the royal cauſe, cannot be eaſily calculated. Beſides the large loans which he had advanced to the king, the maintenance of two armies, and the deſtruction of his foreſts, his eſtates, valued at £.20,000 a year, were confiſcated. On the reſtoration, theſe eſtates were recovered by the family; but Raglan caſtle was diſmantled, by order of the parliament, and has never ſince been inhabited.

In addition to the injury which the caſtle ſuffered from the parliamentary army, conſiderable dilapidations have been occaſioned by the numerous tenants in the vicinity, who conveyed away the ſtone and other materials for the conſtruction of farm houſes, barns, and other buildings. No leſs than twenty-three ſtair-

"ſudden ſurpriſed, thou falleſt into ſuch a ſhaking fit, "that I am aſhamed too ſee thee in that condition; "whereas I was reſolved to be hanged, before ever I "fell to ſtealing; which is the reaſon, nothing hap-"pening ſtrange or unexpected, I go ſo compoſed "unto my death:—So, ſaid the marqueſs, I reſolved to "undergo whatſoever, even the worſt of evils that "you were able to lay upon me, before ever I took "up arms for my ſoveraign, and therefore wonder not "that I am ſo merry."

ſtaircaſes * were taken down by theſe devaſtators; but the preſent duke of Beaufort had no ſooner ſucceeded to his eſtate, than he inſtantly gave orders that not a ſtone ſhould be removed from its ſituation, and thus preſerved theſe noble ruins from deſtruction.

According to tradition, Raglan caſtle contained a fine library, and a large collection of Welſh manuſcripts principally formed by the earl of Pembroke, which were deſtroyed on the ſurrender. Mr. Owen informs me, that ſome of the Welſh authors quote a grammar by Geraint, contemporary with Alfred, of which a copy was preſerved in this collection.

The church of Raglan, a neat ſtone building in the gothic ſtyle, with a ſquare embattled tower, ſtands in the middle of the village. A chapel on the north ſide of the chancel was formerly a cemetery of the Beaufort family; and ſeveral of the earls of Worceſter are here interred.

The firſt was William, third earl of Worceſter, who in 1549 ſucceeded his father Henry, at the age of twenty-two, in his honours and eſtates. He was conſtituted knight of the garter in the reign of Edward the ſixth: he died on the 21ſt of February 1588, and was buried at Raglan on the laſt day of April. According to the directions of his will, his body was interred, under a tomb of marble, on the north ſide of the chapel. During the civil wars, the ſepulchre was broken in pieces, and Sandford informs us, that in his time nothing remained "but the canopy of alabaſter, carved and gilt, and part of the figure of "earl William in armour, with the collar of St. George about his neck, and the "garter on his left leg †." At preſent there are no traces of this monument.

The ſecond earl of Worceſter here interred, was Edward, ſon of the preceding, who enjoyed the favour of queen Elizabeth, king James and Charles, and held ſeveral high places of truſt and ſtate. In 1593 he was inſtituted knight of the garter; and being the beſt horſeman and tilter of his age, was appointed maſter of the horſe; afterwards he became lord privy ſeal, and one of the lords commiſſioners for exerciſing the office of earl marſhal of England. He gave a luſtre to

* Heath, p. 80. † Sandford and Stebbing's Genealogical Hiſtory, &c. p. 347.

to his ſtation by being, as Sandford ſays, " a great favourer of learning and good " literature. He deceaſed full of honour and years, about the 79th year of his " age, at Worceſter houſe, in the Strand, and pariſh of St. Clement Danes, Lon- " don, on Monday, being the 3d of March, anno 1627. His corpſe being con- " veyed to Raglan, was on Sunday, the 30th of the ſame month (anno 1628) " depoſited under a ſumptuous tomb (erected in his life-time) affixed to the " ſouth wall of his own chapel, adjoining to the chancel of the pariſh church of " Raglan aforeſaid; upon which were placed the portraitures of this earl Edward " (in the habit of the order) and his counteſs, with thirteen of their children. " But the ſame hammer of rebellion which defaced earl William's tomb, broke " in pieces the ſepulchre alſo of this Edward, earl of Worceſter; when the par- " liament ſoldiers, being ſeized of the church, were as revengeful in deſtroying the " monuments of the dead father and grandfather, as the living ſon Henry, the " firſt marquis of Worceſter, was loyal and reſolved in defending againſt them " his caſtle of Raglan *."

Two headleſs and mutilated alabaſter figures, of a man with a collar of the garter, and of a woman, ſome irons from which the banners were ſuſpended, an ancient helmet, and a portcullis, the creſt of the Beaufort family, are almoſt the only remains of this ſplendid monument.

The third, whoſe aſhes repoſe in this church, is Edward, ſixth earl and ſecond marquis of Worceſter; a perſonage remarkable in the hiſtory of the times. In addition to his hereditary titles, he was created earl of Glamorgan †, under which name he is principally known, on account of his extraordinary miſſion in Ireland for the purpoſe of ſettling a treaty with the Roman catholics, and leading an army to the aſſiſtance of Charles the firſt. The unlimited confidence repoſed in him, and the full powers with which he was entruſted, are proved by a ſecret commiſſion dated 1644, the moſt extraordinary ever granted by a ſovereign to a ſubject: he was appointed generaliſſimo of three armies, and admiral, with the nomination of the officers; he was empowered to raiſe money, by the ſale of

the

* Sandford, p. 349.

† It has been aſſerted, that he was alſo created baron Beaufort of Caldecot and Griſmount; and theſe titles are mentioned in the commiſſion granted by king Charles the firſt, but are not enumerated in the inſcription placed on his coffin.

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EDWARD 2.M.s of WORCESTER & EARL of GLAMORGAN

From an Original Picture in the Collection of His Grace the Duke of Beaufort

Published July 1.1800. by Cadell & Davies Strand

the regal rights and prerogatives; to create, by blank patents, all titles from a baronet to a marquis; and he received the order of the garter, with the reverſion of the dukedom of Somerſet. In addition to theſe honours, the princeſs Eliſabeth was promiſed to his ſon in marriage, with a portion of £. 300,000, which the king acknowledged to have been expended, by him and the marquis his father, in the royal ſervice *.

The character of Glamorgan was ill calculated to conduct an enterpriſe of ſuch extreme delicacy, ſo as not to excite the jealouſy of the marquis of Ormond, lord lieutenant, lord Digby, ſecretary of ſtate, and the other proteſtant miniſters of the Iriſh government. He poſſeſſed many excellent qualities both of the head and heart; he was loyal, ſincere, active, brave, of elegant manners, and conciliating addreſs; but he was ardent, impetuous, bigoted, indiſcreet, vain. His ſanguine imagination over-rated his own powers, and his fanatic zeal for the Roman catholic religion, rouſed the indignation of the king's proteſtant counſellors. By his unbounded conceſſions, and laviſh grants to the papiſts, he concluded a peace, and obtained a body of ten thouſand men; but the articles of this treaty being accidentally diſcovered, created a general outcry: he was arreſted by Ormond and Digby, and charged with high treaſon, for acting without the king's authority. Copies of the articles, and his intercepted correſpondence, being tranſmitted to England, the king, in a meſſage to parliament, ſolemnly diſavowed the conduct of Glamorgan, and declared that he had no commiſſion to treat with the catholics without the privity and direction of the lord lieutenant.

This public diſavowal, however, did not allay the general ſuſpicions of the king's inſincerity, which were heightened by the ſubſequent liberation and employment of Glamorgan to haſten the concluſion of the treaty between Ormond and the catholics.

Unfortunately, however, the vanity and indiſcretion of Glamorgan, the too cautious proceedings of Ormond, the inflexible oppoſition of Digby, and the intractable temper of the pope's nuncio, delayed the embarkation of the troops, until the unfavourable ſtate of the king's affairs prevented their co-operation. Although volumes have been written on this ſubject, yet the myſtery which involves

* A copy of this commiſſion is given in Collins's Peerage, vol. 1. p. 206.

volves the conduct of the king and Glamorgan during this whole transaction, has never been ſufficiently unfolded. The iſſue was no leſs unſucceſsful than degrading; and no event, in the whole reign of Charles the firſt, gave deeper concern to his conſcientious adherents, or greater triumph to his enemies.

Clarendon, in particular, was ſo much affected with this myſterious buſineſs, that he makes no mention of it in the Hiſtory of the Rebellion, but in a private letter to ſecretary Nicholas, cenſures it in the ſtrongeſt terms of concern and diſapprobation: "I care not how little I ſay in that buſineſs of Ireland, ſince thoſe ſtrange powers and inſtructions given to your favourite Glamorgan, which appear to me inexcuſable to juſtice, piety, and prudence. Oh! Mr. Secretary, thoſe ſtratagems have given me more ſad hours than all the misfortunes which have befallen the king *."

From this period, the name of Glamorgan ſcarcely occurs in the hiſtory of the times. On the death of his gallant father, he aſſumed the title of marquis of Worceſter, but did not ſucceed to his eſtates, which were confiſcated, and granted in part to Oliver Cromwell. On the annihilation of the royal party, he followed the fortunes of Charles the ſecond, and became a refugee at the court of France. Being diſpatched, in 1652, into England, by the exiled king, for the purpoſe of procuring private intelligence and ſupplies, he was diſcovered, and impriſoned in the tower; where, as Kennett obſerves, "he was threatened with a ſpeedy trial, and worſe puniſhed by a long confinement †."

I cannot aſcertain the period of his confinement, or the time of his liberation; from a letter, which he wrote in December 1656 to ſecretary Thurloe ‡, it appears,

* Clarendon's State Papers, vol. 2. p. 337. quoted in Granger's Biographical Hiſtory.

† Hiſtory of England, vol. 3. p. 188.

‡ Marquis of Worceſter to Secretary Thurloe.

Right Honourable, December 18, 1656.

I doe confeſſe, that the ould ſaying is, that profferred ſervice is not valued, in that reſpect I wonder not to have my endeavours ſoe little ſett by. In a word, I am very well pleaſed to acquieſſe, if his highneſſe or your honour thinke me worthy of one quarter of an hour's audience; yet I muſt needes ſay, that if eſteemed of, I am able to doe his highneſſe more ſervice than any one ſubject of his three nations; and though after a meſſage by Mr. Noell, and a letter of mine delivered by my owne hands to Mr. Owag, and as he tould me, by him to your honour, I cannot gett a time aſſigned me to wayte upon you. I here ſende you a true coppy of Don Alonzo his anſweare to me, and do aſſure you, that I have in readineſſe a perſon, whom you yourſelf will confeſſe Don Alonzo cannot except againſt: ſoe that there only reſteth needfull your approbation; when your honour ſhall have reade this and the coppys of the Don's letter, I have entreated and enjoyned Mr. Noell to bring them me backe, and in his preſence I will burn them, and remain ſilent for the future in any thing of this nature, but in all things els, your honour's moſt affectionate friend and humble ſervant.—Worceſter.

appears, that he requeſted an audience of Cromwell, and offered to make diſcoveries of great importance; but his advances were at firſt ſlighted. Afterwards, however, his overtures ſeem to have been favourably received, and his ſon, at leaſt, enjoyed the confidence and protection of Oliver Cromwell, was gratified with apartments at Whitehall, and a penſion of £.2000 per annum*.

His conduct towards Cromwell did not offend the king: on the reſtoration he was re-inſtated in his hereditary poſſeſſions, and treated with high marks of regard and confidence. He does not appear to have interfered in the political tranſactions of the times, but devoted himſelf wholly to literary purſuits; in 1663 he publiſhed a "Century of the Names and Scantlings of ſuch Inventions as I can at preſent call to mind to have tried and perfected."

A ſingular contrariety of opinion has been formed of his literary character. The late earl of Orford calls the noble author a fantaſtic man, and cenſures his work as an amazing piece of folly, "being a liſt of a hundred projects, moſt of them impoſſibilities:" Granger, on the contrary, is warm in its praiſe; and on the authority of an excellent judge, conſiders the author as one of the greateſt mechanical geniuſes that ever appeared in the world. We may juſtly incline to the opinion of Granger, ſhould the invention of the ſteam engine† have owed its riſe

* "About this time, the lord Herbert, being bred "a Papiſt, and ſent into France, came over and made "his court to Oliver Cromwell, but was firſt adviſed "to ſhew himſelf in Whitehall chapel, that he was "conformable to the religion then in faſhion, and "then was introduced, by colonel Philip Jones, to kiſs "the Protector's hand, who afterwards became his "convert, and a great favourite; had £.2000. per "annum given him, and lodgings aſſigned him at "Whitehall." Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire. App. p. 105.

† It appears, from a paſſage in the Experimental Philoſophy of Dr. Deſaguliers, that captain Savary derived this invention of the fire engine, ſince called the ſteam engine, from the ſixty-eighth article in the Century of Scantlings; "and that to conceal his original, he bought up all the Marquis's books and burnt them."

"An admirable and moſt forcible way to drive up water by fire, not by drawing or ſucking it upwards, for that muſt be, as the Philoſopher calleth it, *intra ſphæram activitatis*, which is but at ſuch a diſtance. But this way hath no bounder, if the veſſels be ſtrong enough, for I have taken a piece of a whole cannon whereof the end was burſt, and filled it three quarters full of water, ſtopping and ſkruing up the broken end, as alſo the touch-hole, and making a conſtant fire under it, within twenty-four hours it burſt, and made a great crack; ſo that having a way to make my veſſels ſo that they are ſtrengthened by the force within them, and the one to fill after the other, I have ſeen the water run like a conſtant fountain ſtream forty feet high; one veſſel of water, rarified by fire, driveth up forty of cold water. And a man that tends the work is but to turn two cocks, that one veſſel of water being conſumed, another begins to force and re-fill with cold water, and ſo ſucceſſively, the fire being tended and kept conſtant, which the ſelf-

riſe to this "Century of Scantlings;" an invention which alone would entitle the author to immortality *."

He died in 1667; his body was conveyed with funeral ſolemnity from London, and interred in the vault under the chapel. According to Sandford, who attended the burial, a braſs plate, containing a ſimple Latin inſcription, was placed on his coffin †.

ſelf-ſame perſon may likewiſe abundantly perform in the interim between the neceſſity of turning the ſaid cocks."

On account of the number of copies deſtroyed by captain Savary, this curious work is extremely rare. It is given in the eighteenth volume of the Gentleman's Magazine.

* See Walpole's Royal and Noble Authors, art. Edward Somerſet marquis of Worceſter. Granger's Biographical Hiſtory of England, vol. 3. p. 19.

† "Depoſitum Illuſtriſſimi Principis Edwardi Marchionis & Comitis Wigorniæ, Comitis de Glamorgan, Baronis Herbert de Raglan, Chepſtow & Gower, nec non ſereniſſimo nuper Domino Regi Carolo primo, Southwalliæ locum tenentis: qui obiit apud Lond. tertio die Aprilis, An. Dom. M,DC,LXVII."

Genealogical Hiſtory, p. 358.

CHAPTER 16.

Lanſanfraed Houſe and Church.—Pant y Goitre.—Clytha Houſe and Caſtle.—Lanarth Court.—Troſtrey Forge.—Kemeys Commander.—Troſtrey Houſe and Church.—Bettus Newydd.

FROM Raglan I paſſed through a rich and undulating country, abounding in pictureſque views, to Lanſanfraed, the reſidence of James Greene, eſq. member for Arundel. This place is remarkable in the hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, as the ancient ſeat of Thomas ap Gwillim, from whom the earls of Pembroke, Powis, and Caernarvon, are deſcended by the male, and the dukes of Beaufort by the female line. His father was lord of Werndee; he himſelf was originally ſeated at Perthîr, near Monmouth; but poſſeſſed Lanſanfraed in the reign of Richard the ſecond, and dying in 1438, was buried in the church. He ſeems to have acquired Lanſanfraed by his marriage with Maud, daughter of ſir John Morley, knight, lord of Raglan caſtle. Lanſanfraed was moſt probably conſidered as the principal place of reſidence, for it was inherited by his eldeſt ſon and heir, Philip ap Thomas, and Raglan caſtle deſcended to the ſecond ſon, ſir William ap Thomas, father of the earl of Pembroke. Philip ap Thomas dying in 1460, Lanſanfraed paſſed to his deſcendants; on the extinction of the male line, was conveyed by Suſan, ſole ſurviving daughter and heireſs of Henry Jones, to her huſband, George Rickards, eſq. of Bredon's Norton, in the county of Worceſter, and is now the property of their ſon John Rickards, eſq.

A ſmall part only of the original ſtructure now remains; the manſion

being converted, from a farm houſe, by Mr. Greene, the preſent tenant, into a comfortable habitation. The view from the lawn before the houſe, which harmoniſes with the adjacent country, is extremely pleaſing: it commands an undulating tract, riſing from the banks of the Uſk, bounded by a ſemicircular chain of fertile eminences, and backed by hills and mountains. To the ſouth-weſt appears Clytha caſtle, a pictureſque object, on the ſlope of an eminence, ſwelling from the banks of the Uſk, and crowned by the Coed y Bunedd; from thence, a lower ridge gradually deſcends towards the vale, and terminates in a rich knoll of wood at Pant y Goetre. To the north-weſt appears the magnificent Blorenge; on the north the elegant cone of the Sugar Loaf towers above the ſwell of the little Skyrrid, and to the eaſt riſes the abrupt ridge of the great Skyrrid.

Lanſanfraed houſe is ſituated five miles and a half from Abergavenny, ten from Monmouth, four from Raglan, and ſeven from Uſk; and its central poſition renders it extremely convenient for the purpoſe of exploring the county. Unacquainted with a ſingle gentleman, when I firſt entered the county, I was introduced to Mr. Greene, by my friend ſir Richard Hoare; his hoſpitable manſion was open to me at all times and on all occaſions, without form or ceremony; I was left at full liberty to make excurſions as my fancy or inclination ſuggeſted, and on my return, after the fatigues of the day, I enjoyed the comforts of an agreeable ſociety. In this delightful reſidence, I firſt conceived the plan of writing a tour in Monmouthſhire; Mr. Greene zealouſly encouraged and aſſiſted me in the proſecution of the work; through his introduction, I became acquainted with the principal gentlemen and men of letters, and obtained acceſs to various documents, and intereſting papers.

The church of Lanſanfraed is very ancient, a circumſtance ſufficiently evident, from the ſimplicity of its form, which is like a barn, with a ſmall belfry, containing two bells, the ropes deſcending into the church. It has been lately repaired by Mr. Rickards, the patron of the living, and is much neater than many of the pariſh churches in Monmouthſhire.

On the north wall of the nave is a curious ſepulchral inſcription, of which an exact tranſcript is here given, as well becauſe it ſerves to illuſtrate the pedigree

of

Edith Palmer del.t

W. Byrne direx.t

To William Jones Esq.r this View of CLYTHA GATEWAY, Engraved at his Expence
Is inscribed by his obliged Servant. W. Coxe.

Published March 1, 1800, by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

of the Herbert family, as becauſe inaccurate copies of it have been preſented to the public.

NERE THIS PLACE LY ENTERRED THESE DEAD BODIES VNDERNAMED THOM: G L M: IENK: ESQ 8° IVL: 1438 & MAVD HIS WIFE DA TO S^R: IOHN MOR LEY KNIGHT & HIS COHE: PHIL: THERE SONE & HEIRE 9°: NO: 1460 & IOHAN HIS WIFE, DA & HEIRE OF THO: BLETHIN OF PENTRE, ESQ 7°: IVN: 1458: DAVID THERE SONE & HEIRE 19°: DE: 1510: KATHE: HIS WIFE DA: TO S^R: ROGER VAHAN KNIGHT 26: MAR: 1526: THOM: THERE SONE & HEIRE 3°: APR: 1537: & IANE HIS WIFE: DA: TO IOHN THO OF TRE OWEN ESQ: 13°: AVG: 1533: IOHN THERE SONE AND HEIRE 30°: MAII: 1553: BVT GWEN HIS WIFE DA: TO EDWA: IONES OF ABERGA: GEN: WAS BVRVIED IN HER BROTHER EDWARS SEPVLCHER ON THE NORTHE SIDE OF THE HIGHE ALTAR IN SAINT MARIES THERE: 23: SEP: 1597: WATER THEIRE SONE AND HEIRE 17°: AP: 1606 AND LETTIS HIS WIFE DA: OF IOHN WILLMS, OF NEWPO: GEN: 19° IAN: 1623.

	FOR AN ETERNAL TOKEN OF RESPECT	
	TO YOV MY SIRES, THESE STONES I DOE ERECT;	
	YOVR WORTHY BONES DESERV OF ME IN BRASS;	
14 SEP:	A RARER TOMBE THEN STATELY HATTON HAS:	1624.
	BVT SITHE MY MENS NO PART OF SVCH AFOORDS	
	INSTEDE THEREOF ACCEPT THIS TOME OF WORDS.	

In the vicinity of Lanſanfraed are ſeveral country ſeats, which form an agreeable neighbourhood, and add to the beauty of the ſurrounding ſcenery, by the improved ſtate of cultivation, and the richneſs of their groves and plantations.

Pant y Goitre, the ſeat of Dr. Hooper, occupies a beautiful ſpot on the oppoſite bank of the Uſk; it is ſurrounded with rich meadows, and backed by hanging groves of oak, and other timber trees. The walks on the ſide of the river are delightful, and the views from the well-wooded knoll, which overſhadows the houſe, are equally pleaſing, grand, and diverſified; preſenting the aſſemblage of wood, water, vales, hills, and mountains, in different points of view from thoſe which had hitherto arreſted my attention.

I paſſed ſome agreeable days at Clytha Houſe, the ſeat of William Jones, eſq. uncle of Mr. Jones of Lanarth, which is ſituated at the junction of the Uſk and Monmouth roads. A beautiful gothic gateway (of which an engraving is annexed)

nexed) leads to the houſe, which is a comfortable and commodious manſion. Mr. Jones has conſiderably improved the grounds by plantations, and diſplayed his taſte, as well as his affection to the memory of a beloved wife, by building Clytha Caſtle, which is an ornament to his reſidence, and to the ſurrounding country.

The motives which gave riſe to the conſtruction of this elegant edifice, are well diſplayed in the inſcription:

" This building was erected in the year 1790, by
William Jones of Clytha Houſe, Eſq;
Fourth Son of John Jones,
of Lanarth Court, Monmouthſhire, Eſq; and
Huſband to Elizabeth, the laſt ſurviving Child
of Sir William Morgan of Tredegar, K. B.
and Grand-daughter of The moſt noble William,
Second Duke of Devonſhire.
It was undertaken for the Purpoſe of relieving a Mind
Sincerely afflicted, by the Loſs of a moſt excellent Wife;
Whoſe Remains were depoſited
in Lanarth Church Yard *, A. D. 1787,
and to the Memory of whoſe Virtues
This Tablet is dedicated.

The caſtle is built on the brow of an eminence mantled with wood, and at the abrupt termination of the chain of hills, which bounds the ſouthern extremity of the vale of the Uſk. It commands a view of a fertile and well-wooded region, ſwelling from the ſinuous banks of the river, into gentle undulations, and gradually expanding into hills and mountains; among theſe, the Skyrrid, the Sugar Loaf, and the Blorenge, are moſt conſpicuous and contraſted. From this point of view, the beauty of the landſcape is heightened by numerous churches, differing in ſhape and colour, riſing amid tufts of trees, or overhanging the banks of the Uſk.

There

* The inſcription to her memory, written by Mr. Jones, and placed in the chancel of the church of Lanarth, is inſerted in the Appendix.

Edith Palmer del.ª

W. Byrne sculp.ª

CLYTHA CASTLE.

To William Jones Esqr. This Plate, Engraved at his Expence,

Is inscribed by his obliged Servant W Cox

There are proſpects far more extenſive but few ſo pleaſing: nature has placed the hills and mountains at ſuch fortunate diſtances from this point of view, that the eye is loſt in the endleſs variety of the bewitching ſcenery, and knows not on what object to reſt. On ceaſing to contemplate this delightful proſpect, I did not retire from the building without ſympathiſing with the regret, and applauding the gratitude, affection, and taſte of the owner.

Lanarth Court, the ſeat of John Jones, eſq. ſtands not far from the Abergavenny road, and about a mile and a half from Lanſanfraed. According to the moſt authentic documents, Mr. Jones is lineally deſcended from Henry Fitz Herbert, chamberlain to king Henry the firſt, the common anceſtor of the illuſtrious family of the Herberts. It appears from an ancient pedigree, in the poſſeſſion of William Jones, eſq. of Clytha Houſe, that Howel, ſon of Gwillim, lord of Werndee, was ſeated at Treowen, near Monmouth, and that his grandſon David, following the ſtandard of his couſin, the earl of Pembroke, was ſlain at the battle of Banbury, fighting for the white roſe.

In the reign of Henry the eighth, his deſcendant, William ap John, firſt adopted the Engliſh cuſtom of aſſuming a fixed ſurname; and John was ſoftened into Jones, which has ſince been retained by this branch of the family. His great grandſon, ſir Philip Jones, knight, was a warm advocate for the cauſe of royalty: he was lieutenant colonel of the troops raiſed in Monmouthſhire for the ſupport of Charles the firſt; and was engaged in the defence of Raglan caſtle, when it ſurrendered to Fairfax. Soon after the reſtoration, William, ſon of Sir Philip Jones, transferred the reſidence from Treowen to Lanarth Court, which has ſince continued to be the principal ſeat of the family.

The ancient manſion of Lanarth Court was pulled down by the preſent proprietor, and a handſome houſe built on its ſite: the front is ornamented with an elegant portico, reſembling that of the temple of Pæſtum; it ſtands on a gentle riſe, and has the peculiarity of commanding a view wholly different from the general aſpect of the ſcenery in this part of Monmouthſhire. In a country abounding in hills and mountains, not a ſingle hill or mountain is ſeen from the front

front of the houſe; a circumſtance which pleaſed rather than diſappointed me; the eye, long ſatiated with extenſive and mountainous proſpects, repoſes with ſatisfaction on a quiet and retired vale. The view, however, would be rendered ſtill more delightful, if the gentle eminences which riſe in front of the houſe were enriched with judicious and ornamental plantations.

In company with Mr. Rickards, proprietor of Lanſanfraed, I made an excurſion from Clytha houſe. We walked to the banks of the Uſk, nearly oppoſite to the church of Lanvair Kilgeden, which is ſingularly pictureſque, from its ſolitary ſituation in the midſt of fields, at a diſtance from any houſe, and ſurrounded by venerable yews. Here the river, which had hitherto flowed in a ſinuous courſe, is interrupted by the Clytha hills, turns at right angles, and runs in a ſtrait direction under the precipitous and woody ridge on which the caſtle is ſituated. We deſcended in a boat to Troſtrey forge, and diſembarked at a weir, where I took an opportunity of examining its ſtructure, and obſerved the method of catching ſalmon.

An embankment of ſtakes and ſtones, is thrown diagonally acroſs the river, between two and three hundred yards in length: in the middle of the weir is a vacancy, provided with an iron grate, through which a conſiderable body of the river ruſhes with great impetuoſity. At the lower part of the weir, on one ſide of this ſtream, is a large wooden box, perforated with holes, to admit the water and air, with an aperture, to which is affixed a long round wicker baſket, reſembling a tunnel. This aperture is cloſed with a ſmall iron grate, which opens within the box, like a trap door, and falls to its original poſition, by its own weight. A ſquare wooden frame, ſimilar to thoſe uſed at mills for the purpoſe of catching eels, extends nearly acroſs the whole of the ſtream, below the large iron grate, leaving only ſufficient room for the ſalmon. The fiſh, in his migration, is obliged to aſcend this narrow opening, and having paſſed the wooden frame, is ſtopped by the grate. Inſtead of retreating down the narrow paſs, by which he aſcended, he turns ſideways, is hurried by the rapidity of the ſtream along a narrow current, leading through the tunnel, forces up the trap door,

door, which immediately falls down behind him, and is thus ſecured in the box. The box contained ſeveral ſalmon; one of which did not weigh leſs than thirty pounds.

Troſtrey Forge is rented by Harvey, Waſon, and company, from ſir Samuel Fludyer. The place contains little worthy of obſervation, except an inſcription over the door, which marks the extraordinary height of the Uſk:

"Flood, February 16th 1795. Harvey, Waſon, and Company, Briſtol."

This memorial will convey ſome idea of the dreadful inundations to which the country, in the vicinity of the river, is ſubject; the inſcription is fourteen feet above the ground, and twenty-two above the ordinary level of the river: the water roſe to this uncommon height in the ſpace of twelve hours. Several of the workmen witneſſed the inundation, and Mr. Waſon, one of the proprietors, confirmed to me the truth of the memorial; fortunately, however, the river ſubſided almoſt as rapidly as it had increaſed.

The bar iron manufactured at this forge, is ſent to Tredonnoc bridge by land, from thence conveyed down the Uſk to Newport, and exported to Briſtol. A little beyond the forge the river is no longer navigable, even for ſmall veſſels; it flows in a deep abyſs amid hills and woods, until it emerges near the town of Uſk.

We here mounted our horſes, and rode through thickets acroſs the fields, to Kemeys Commander, a ſmall village which, according to a pedigree of the Kemeys family, is ſuppoſed to derive its name from Edward Kemeys, who was commander of the army under Hamlet, ſon of Dru, duc de Baladun, at the conqueſt of Upper Gwent. As a reward for his military ſervices, he is ſaid to have received the lordſhips of Kemeys Commander, and Little Kemeys, which I viſited in my excurſion from Caerleon to Uſk. It is however more probable that it was denominated Kemeys Commander, becauſe it was a commandery of the knights templars, to whom, according to Bacon, the patronage of the church belonged *. The church is a gothic building of ſmall dimenſions, ſimple form, and ancient appearance, with a low belfry, like that of Malpas. In the church

* Liber Regis, p. 1098.

yard is a ſingular phenomenon, which was pointed out to me by Mr. Rickards: within a hollow yew tree, fifteen feet in girth, is incloſed an oak, not leſs than ſeven feet in circumference; its branches riſe to a conſiderable height, and overſhadow the parent trunk, forming a ſingular combination of foliage.

We next rode through a narrow and ſtony lane to the banks of the Uſk, and looked down from the ſummit of a wooded precipice on a large weir, over which the river fell in a conſiderable cataract. This ſalmon fiſhery is rented by Mr. Rhees, poſt-maſter of Uſk, from ſir Samuel Fludyer; it is held by a leaſe of three lives, renewable on a certain fine, and the proprietor is bound to keep the weir in repair; the expence being ſo conſiderable as to exceed the annual rent, the leſſor repeatedly offered to ſurrender it wholly to the tenant, which has been as often declined: ſeveral law-ſuits have enſued, and it was at length decided that, at the expiration of three lives, the covenant ſhould be void, and the property revert wholly to the leſſor.

In our return to Clytha, we viſited Troſtrey Houſe, the ancient ſeat of the family of Hughes, now a farm houſe. The church of Troſtrey reſembles that of Kemeys Commander, in its ſhape and appearance; but the ſituation is extremely wild and romantic: it ſtands on a gentle riſe, in the midſt of a wood, remote from any habitation, and ſeems rather the ſolitary chapel of a hermit, than the church of a cultivated diſtrict. On the eaſt wall of the chancel is a tablet erected to the memory of Charles Hughes, brother to Thomas Hughes of Moinſcourt, who was celebrated in the annals of this country for his attachment to the cauſe of king Charles the firſt. He died 1676, aged 57, and his ſucceſſors retained poſſeſſion of Troſtrey houſe and eſtate, until it was purchaſed by Valentine Morris, by whom it was ſold to ſir Samuel Fludyer, the preſent proprietor.

Entering the high road, from Uſk to Abergavenny, we paſſed through the village of Bettus Newydd, and viſited the church, which from its ſize and form ſeems to have been built at the ſame period with thoſe of Troſtrey and Kemeys Commander. It is, however, worthy of particular obſervation, as the ancient

rood-

rood-loft is entire, and a large wooden croſs is ſtill affixed at its eaſtern extremity; the carved work of the gallery is not inelegant.

Beyond Bettus Newydd the road aſcends a gentle riſe, from which the traveller who purſues this route, from the New Paſſage, firſt catches a view of the romantic cluſter of mountains in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny; and from their ſudden appearance and contraſted forms, receives lively impreſſions of delight and admiration.

Rich.d Hoare, Bar.t del.t W. Byrne sculp.t

LANSANFRAED CHURCH.

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CHAPTER 17.

Abergavenny.—Circumjacent Mountains.—The Blorenge.—Sugar Loaf.—Skyrrid.—Eſtabliſhment of the Free School.

THE poſition of Abergavenny is moſt delightful; it ſtands at the extremity of a paſs where the mountains abruptly terminate, and the vale of the Uſk begins to take a greater expanſion. The name * is derived from its ſituation at the mouth of the Gavenny, which flows by the outſkirts of the town, and falls into the Uſk, to the ſouth-weſt of the caſtle.

Abergavenny ſtretches at the feet of hills and mountains, which gradually ſwelling from the vale, unite the extremes of wildneſs and fertility, and are intereſting from the contraſt of their ſhape and appearance.

To the weſt riſes the Blorenge, magnificent from its height and continuity; it forms the northern extremity of the chain, which reaches from Pont y Pool, and terminates near the confines of the county. The higheſt part towers above the Uſk, and the town of Abergavenny; its ſides are concave; the ſummit is covered with ruſſet herbage, without a ſingle buſh; the midland parts are chequered with underwood, intermixed with fertile meadows, and the baſe is clothed with timber trees. At the northern extremity, the rich knoll of Upper Lanfoiſt preſents a wood of fine oak, aſh, and elm, forming an extenſive mantle of thick and dark foliage.

To the north are the Pen y Vale hills, which ſweep from the extremity of the town, and riſe into four undulating eminences: they appear at a little diſtance to be ſeparate, but are connected together, and interſected by narrow glens, which

are

* All the Welſh names of towns diſtinguiſhed by the prefix Aber, indicate their ſituation at the junction of two rivers; Aber in Welſh ſignifying the fall of a leſſer water into a greater: thus Abergavenny, Aberyſtwith, &c.

are watered by lively and murmuring ſtreams that riſe on their ſides, and ſwell the Uſk with their tributary waters. Theſe four eminences are known by diſtinct appellations. The Derry, the moſt eaſterly, is of a convex ſhape, and derives its name from a grove of ſmall oaks, which clothes its ſides and ſummit; the next is the Rolben; the third is the Graig Lanwenarth, and the fourth the hill Lanwenarth; both ſo called from their ſituation in the pariſh, and above the church of Lanwenarth.

Theſe four hills ſupport, on their broad and extenſive baſe, the Pen y Vale *, called the Sugar Loaf, from its ſhape. The undulating outline of this elegant ſummit, is emboſſed in the middle with the cone, which aſſumes different appearances:

" Mille habet ornatus mille *decenter* habet."

It looks like a piked ridge from the oppoſite ſide of the Uſk; ſometimes appears in a globular ſhape, but at a diſtance, and particularly at the ſouth-eaſtern ſide of the Skyrrid, aſſumes the form of a pyramid, and reſembles the crater of a volcano. This cone is the higheſt object in the vicinity, has nothing rugged or craggy, and is characteriſed by ſmoothneſs and beauty.

The moſt ſingular and intereſting mountain in the neighbourhood, is the Great Skyrrid, or St. Michael's Mount, which ſtretches from north to ſouth, or more accurately from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt: it is an inſulated mount, riſing abruptly from the plain; the north-eaſtern ſide appears a ſteep ridge of a brown hue; towards the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt, it ſlopes gradually into cultivation. The ſummit is covered with heath, or ruſſet herbage, and its feet are clothed with wood, or enriched with corn and paſture.

In one point of view, particularly from the Little Skyrrid, it aſſumes the appearance of an enormous barrow, or tumulus, piled up by the hands of giants. To the north it terminates in a bold and craggy precipice, divided into two points, quaintly,

* *Pen y Vale*; ſuppoſed by ſome to be a corruption of *Pen y foel*, or the barren top, pronounced *Pen y voel*. Mr. Owen, however, has favoured me with a more probable etymology: *Val*, ſtanding alone, out of the conſtruction of a ſentence, would be *Bal*, which is a common term for a ſugar-loaf hill. So the poet, David ap Gwilym, ſpeaking of a fine complexion, ſays, "*Lliw manod balodd*," "the hue of the driven ſnow of the PEAKS." In another paſſage, he ſays, "*Lliw eiry y vâl*," "the hue of the ſnow of the PEAK."

quaintly, but not inaccurately called by Stukeley, " bipartite at top, and Parnaſſus like*;" this double ſummit is occaſioned by a fiſſure or rent, from which the name of Skyrrid is ſuppoſed to be derived †. At a ſmall diſtance from Lanvihangel, on the Herefordſhire road, this precipitous rock ſeems like two detached mountains, of a conical ſhape, and as I obſerved ſome clouds reſting on the higheſt ſummit, its ſtupendous crag appeared like the rugged crater of a volcano, vomiting volumes of ſmoke.

The Little Skyrrid is a beautiful ſwelling hill, covered on its ſides and ſummit with plantations; its elegant form and fertile appearance are finely contraſted with the rugged and broken ridge of the Great Skyrrid.

The reſpective heights of theſe mountains, above the mouth of the Gavenny, were taken barometrically by general Roy:

	Feet.
The ſummit of the Sugar Loaf -	1852.
of the Skyrrid - -	1498.
of the Little Skyrrid -	765.
of the Blorenge - -	1720.

The Uſk, which riſes in Brecknockſhire, is here a mountain-torrent; and from its rapid and tranſparent ſtream, flowing through fields of corn and paſture, gives a lively colouring to the rich woods which tower above and around it.

The Gavenny, or as it is called by the natives, the Kenvy, riſes in the vicinity of Lanvihangel, and after flowing between the Skyrrid and the Hereford road, bends to Landeilo Bertholly, flows round the ſouthern ſide of Abergavenny, and falls into the Uſk, near the ruins of the caſtle.

The Kibby, a ſmall brook, riſes in the upper part of the Derry, waters a narrow glen between the Derry and Rolben, and after flowing through the town, and ſupplying it with water, falls into the Gavenny, not far from its junction with the Uſk.

Abergavenny

* Stukeley's Itin. Curios. vol. 1. p. 70.

† According to ſome, Skyrrid is a corruption of *Yſgyrraed*, implying ſeparations or fiſſures; according to others, of *Yſgyryd*, or rough, either of which is equally applicable.

PLAN OF ABERGAVENNY

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Abergavenny is generally allowed, by the beſt antiquaries, to be the Gobannium of Antonine. The ſimilarity between the ancient and modern name, the agreement of its diſtance from Caerleon, on one ſide through Burrium or Uſk, and on the other from Uriconium or Wroxeter, through Magna or Kencheſter, with thoſe ſpecified in the Itineraries, and the diſcovery of various Roman natiquities, fully aſcertain this point *. It may not, however, be ſuperfluous to add a proof of the reſidence of the Romans in theſe parts, not hitherto noticed, and which indicates that the ancient Gobannium occupied the ſame ſide of the river as the preſent town: the pariſh of Lanwenarth is divided by the Uſk, and the two parts are ſtill diſtinguiſhed by Latin appellations; the part neareſt to Abergavenny, on the left bank of the Uſk, is called Lanwenarth *citra*, or on this ſide the Uſk; and the other diviſion, Lanwenarth *ultra*, or on the other ſide. The pariſh of Landeilo Bertholly is alſo called *citra* and *ultra*, from its ſituation on each ſide of the Gavenny.

Abergavenny occupies a gentle ſlope, from the foot of the Derry to the left bank of the Uſk. The town is long and ſtraggling, and the ſtreets are in general narrow, although within a few years it has been much improved in appearance. The principal ſtreet is not deficient in breadth; an old market-houſe †, which embarraſſed the paſſage, has been removed, and a neat and convenient place has been formed in a better ſituation.

Abergavenny was once a corporate town, and a place of great population, trade, and importance. Leland calls it "*a faire waulled town, meately well inhabited* ‡;" and a manuſcript account of Monmouthſhire, collected in 1602 by George Owen, of Henllys, in Pembrokeſhire, eſq. deſcribes it as "*a fine town, wealthy*

* See Horſley.—Strange.

† The old market-houſe in Abergavenny was badly ſituated, juſt in the middle of the principal ſtreet in the town, which it ſo nearly covered as to leave a narrow paſſage, only on one ſide, ſcarcely ſufficient to admit carriages. It was, however, ſpacious and commodious, and contained a large apartment, at the farther end of which was a convenient court of juſtice, where the quarter ſeſſions were held in rotation, till within theſe few years, by an order of the magiſtrates, the ſeſſions were transferred to Uſk. It was built by the benefaction of 200 marks, left for that purpoſe, by the laſt will of Philip Jones, of London and Lanarth court, eſq. (anceſtor to the Jones's of Lanarth and Clytha) dated 27th Sept. 1602. From W. Dinwoody, eſq.

‡ Itin. vol. 5. fol. 7.

wealthy and thriving, and the very beſt in the ſhire *." The decline of its importance may be dated from the forfeiture of the charter, in the beginning of the reign of William the third, on account of diſaffection to the new government, which occaſioned violent diſſenſions, tumults, and diſorders at the election of a bailiff †.

Another cauſe of its decline was derived from the failure of the trade. Abergavenny was once the chief mart for ſupplying the midland parts of Wales with ſhop goods, and various articles of traffic. Since the conſtruction of turnpike roads, and the cuſtom of ſending out riders, which prevails among the merchants of London and Briſtol, for the purpoſe of vending their own commodities, this branch of trade has been almoſt annihilated. The town was likewiſe enriched by a conſiderable manufactory of flannel, for which the circumjacent country is well calculated; the ſheep of the hills ſupply a fine ſpecies of wool, and the quality of the waters in the vicinity is peculiarly adapted for rendering the flannel ſoft and delicate. Only a ſmall quantity is now made in the town and neighbourhood, and the manufacture has been principally transferred to Longtown in Montgomeryſhire, which, from cuſtom, ſtill retains the name of Abergavenny flannel, although inferior in ſilkineſs and ſoftneſs to the ſpecies made in this place. The decay of this manufacture has been attributed to the cuſtom of rolling the pieces, which renders inſpection more difficult, and conceals defects, ſo that the farther end has been occaſionally found to be of an inferior quality: on the contrary, the Montgomeryſhire flannel is packed in folds, by which the whole of the piece is equally liable to inſpection. Perhaps the only method of remedying the bad effects of this cuſtom, would be to adopt regulations, ſimilar to thoſe eſtabliſhed by law, for the packing of Iriſh linen, by which means the credit of the fabric is preſerved.

A manufacture of narrow cloth, almoſt ſufficient to ſupply the inhabitants, has alſo fallen to decay ſince the introduction of machinery too expenſive for the limited trade of this diſtrict. A laudable attempt, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, was made to revive it by two opulent inhabitants. The one ſent his ſon into Gloceſterſhire, to learn the buſineſs of wool-ſtapling, and a ſon of.

* Hiſt. of Mon. Appendix, No. V.

† See the act of parliament relating to the free ſchool of Abergavenny, which paſſed in 1760.

of the other was apprenticed to a clothier at Shepton Mallet. Unfortunately the latter, who was a promiſing young man, dying in the laſt year of his apprenticeſhip, this judicious ſcheme was defeated.

This place alſo ſupplied large quantities of ſhoes, which were conveyed to Briſtol, and exported from thence. Although this trade is conſiderably diminiſhed, and ſuppoſed to be adequate only to the conſumption of the neighbourhood, yet the number of ſhoemakers render it probable that ſome are even now exported.

During the prepoſterous faſhion formerly prevalent among the beaux, of decorating their heads with flaxen perriwigs of an enormous ſize, which were valued in proportion to their whiteneſs, and not unfrequently ſold at the price of forty or fifty guineas, a method was diſcovered, and ſuppoſed to be invented in this neighbourhood, of bleaching hair; an employment which ſupported many perſons, and was productive of conſiderable profit; until the faſhion changed.

From this concurrence of unfavourable circumſtances, the trade declined, and Abergavenny was haſtening to decay; but about forty years ago, a new ſource of advantage was fortunately opened. The paſſage through theſe parts being facilitated by the conſtruction of turnpike roads, the beauties of the ſituation attracted attention; and phyſicians of great practice preſcribing goats' whey for conſumptive perſons, Abergavenny became a place of reſort. But alas! a faſhion prevails in medicine as well as in dreſs: the flaxen perriwigs fell into diſuſe, and goats' whey is no longer the panacea of conſumptive complaints. Yet numerous invalids ſtill repair every ſummer to Abergavenny, for the mildneſs and ſalubrity of the air, and travellers flock in crowds to enjoy the charming aſpect of the ſurrounding ſcenery.

But more ſolid and ſubſtantial benefits are expected to flow from the recent eſtabliſhment of the iron founderies in the neighbouring mountains, which already afford full occupation to the poor in the adjoining pariſhes. The numbers employed are daily augmenting, the conſumption greater and more certain, and the value of lands already increaſed one fourth. The natives entertain the moſt ſanguine hopes of ſtill greater benefit. The numerous ſtreams which fall

down the ſurrounding heights, are well calculated for water-mills; new eſtabliſhments may be formed, and the large quantities of bar iron fabricated in the vicinity, which are now exported, may be manufactured into different articles, and ſent down the canal, when it is completed, to the ports of the channel.

Abergavenny was noted for the cheapneſs as well as the excellence of its market; but by the influx of company, and the eſtabliſhment of the iron-works, the price of proviſions has been conſiderably enhanced, to the chagrin of a few, who have derived no benefit from theſe advantages. A ſtranger, expatiating with rapture on the beauty of the views, ſaid to a native who accompanied him, "Really, Mr. Davies, this ſpot of your's is quite enchanting! you cannot move a ſtep without diſcovering new beauties; fine proſpects are actually *cheap* here." "True, ſir," replied Mr. Davies, "and you will find proſpects to be the only *cheap* things in the country."

There is a free grammar ſchool at Abergavenny, which was founded by Henry the eighth, and endowed, in truſt to the corporation, with the great tythes of the rectory of Bedgeworth in the county of Gloceſter, which was a parcel of the monaſtery of Uſk, and of ſeveral rectories * which belonged to the priory of Abergavenny, for the maintenance of a maſter, choſen by the bailiffs and vicar, and of an uſher, appointed by the maſter, with the addition of £. 10 annually to "two of the moſt hopeful and indigent ſcholars." By a ſubſequent arrangement, made in the reign and at the recommendation of Charles the ſecond, the great tythes of Bedgeworth were leaſed, for a term of 99 years, to Jeſus college in the univerſity of Oxford, at an annual rent of £. 50, on condition of maintaining a fellow and ſcholar, to be choſen by the bailiffs and vicar out of the free ſchool; and ſhould none be deemed qualified for learning and manners, from the natives of the county of Monmouth. Of this annual ſum £. 40 was appropriated for the ſalary of the maſter, £. 10 for the exhibition of the two ſcholars, and £. 15. a year were paid to the uſher out of the other rents by the corporation.

* "Of St. Michael de Kilcorney, Llandewy Rotherg, Llanellen, Llanthewy Skredde, and Bringwine, and a portion of tythes of the rectory of Llanwenarth, all in the county of Monmouth, and dioceſe of Landaff, &c." Act of parliament, p. 2.

corporation. On the forfeiture of the charter the truſt ceaſed; but the terms were duly fulfilled by Jeſus College, on whom, in conjunction with the vicar, the choice of the maſter devolved; the receivers, however, of the other eſtates which remained in the hands of the corporation, and were valued at £.53 a year, withheld the payment of the rents, excepting the ſtipend of the uſher.

As in conſequence of the forfeiture of the charter, all theſe arrears and rents devolved upon the crown, as well as the reverſion of the impropriate rectory of Bedgeworth at the expiration of the leaſe of ninety-nine years, a joint petition from Jeſus college and the town of Abergavenny was preſented to the king. Accordingly, in 1760, an act of parliament veſted in perpetuity the rectory of Bedgeworth in Jeſus college, on the former conditions, and the rents and arrears of the other rectories in truſtees, for paying the uſher, ſupporting the ſchool, and employing the ſurplus for the relief of the poor, and benefit of the town. According to the regulations eſtabliſhed by this act of parliament, the maſter, who muſt be a fellow, ſcholar, or member of Jeſus college, is choſen by the college and the vicar, if reſident; the fellow and ſcholar muſt be either natives of Abergavenny or of the county of Monmouth, who have been at leaſt two years in the grammar ſchool; they are nominated by the college, are called *the fellow and ſcholar of Bergavenny*, and bound to vacate their fellowſhip or ſcholarſhip at the end of fourteen years. Viſitors are appointed from the college to inſpect the ſchool, and to correct abuſes; the vicar is likewiſe empowered to examine the conduct of the maſter, and in caſe of negligence, in conjunction with the biſhop of Landaff and the college, to remove him and nominate another.

CHAPTER 18.

Tudor's Gate.—Ruins of Abergavenny Caſtle.—Hiſtory, and different Proprietors.

ABERGAVENNY was formerly a fortified place; many parts of the walls are entire, and their ſite may be traced in the center of the town. The weſtern gate ſtill exiſts; it is called Tudor's Gate, and is a ſtrong gothic portal, defended by a portcullis, of which the groove is viſible. In paſſing through the arch, the eye catches a perſpective view, which is much admired: in the fore ground, the river is ſeen under the arches of the bridge, gliding along the meads; the houſe of upper Lanfoiſt appears boſomed in a rich grove of oaks, and the back ground is formed by the naked, but magnificent ſwell of the Blorenge. A more pleaſing aſſemblage of pictureſque objects never entered into the compoſition of a landſcape; the whole harmoniſes together, and produces an effect which neither the pen nor the pencil can adequately delineate.

Although the caſtle is much dilapidated, the ſite is not difficult to be traced. The ruins are very extenſive, and veſtiges of the ancient walls are ſtill ſeen at ſome diſtance. The caſtle conſiſted of two courts, one of which is converted into a kitchen garden; the gateway* or grand entrance ſtill exiſts, and ſome part of the walls; but the principal remains are ſituated on an eminence overlooking the Uſk; they conſiſt of a pointed arched doorway, a high round tower, and part of a pentagon tower. To the ſouth-eaſt is a tumulus, environed by a trench, with the foundation of a building on the top; this was probably the keep or citadel. The doorways and windows of which the ſhapes are viſible are pointed or gothic.

The

The great beauty of theſe remains is derived from their ſituation on an abrupt riſe, overlooking the vale and river of the Uſk: their poſition, and the range of the adjacent mountains, are well deſcribed by Mr. Sotheby:

" Here while I wake the reed, beneath the brow
" Of the rent Norman tower that overhangs
" The lucid Uſk, the enamoured eye purſues
" Along the expanſe the undulating line
" That nature loves. Whether with gentle bend
" She ſlopes the vale, or lifts the gradual hill,
" Winds the free rivulet, or down the bank
" Spreads the wild wood's luxuriant growth, or breaks
" With interrupting heights the even bound
" Of the outſtretched horizon. Far and wide,
" Blackening the plain beneath, proud Blorench lowers.
" Behind whoſe level length the weſtern ſun
" Dims his ſlope beam: there the oppoſed mount
" Eaſtern of craggy Skirrid, ſacred ſoil,
" Oft trod by pilgrim foot. O'er the ſmooth ſwell
" Of Derry, glide the clouds that gathering hang
" Round yon ſteep brow*, amid the varied ſcene
" Towering aloft. As gradual up the height
" Of the rough hills, aſcending Ceres leads
" The patient ſtep of labour, the wide heath,
" Where once the nibbling flock ſcant herbage cropt,
" Wave in the breeze, with golden harveſts crown'd."

According to tradition, the caſtle of Abergavenny was conſtructed before the conqueſt, by a giant called Agros, which report ſufficiently ſhews its antiquity, and renders it probable, that the Britons had erected a fortreſs at this place; for the beſt critics in the Britiſh language admit, that the ancient word Gawr, which is uſually tranſlated a giant, ſignified alſo a prince†. The character of the ruins, however,

* The Sugar Loaf. † Cambrian Regiſter, vol. 1. p. 350.

however, ſeems to indicate, that no remains of the Britiſh fortreſs exiſt, and that the preſent ſtructure was raiſed in the Norman æra; hiſtory confirms this conjecture.

Soon after the conqueſt, Hameline, ſon of Dru de Baladun or Balun, one of the great Norman chieftains, ſubdued Overwent, and built a fortreſs at Abergavenny; dying without iſſue, in 1090, he left the caſtle to his nephew Brien de in Wallingford or de l' Iſle. Brien, having two ſons, who were lepers, placed them in the priory of Abergavenny, and going to Jeruſalem, ſurrendered the territory and caſtle to his nephew Walter de Gloceſter, earl of Hereford and conſtable of England. It was inherited by Milo, ſon of Walter, whoſe ſons dying without iſſue, his vaſt poſſeſſions were divided among his three daughters. Berta brought to her huſband, Philip de Braoſe, a powerful baron, the caſtle, together with all the lands of Brecknock and Overwent, from whom they deſcended to their ſon William de Braoſe.

At this period, the caſtle was ſurpriſed by Sitſylt ap Dyfnwald and other Welſh chieftains, and the whole garriſon taken priſoners. From them William received it by compoſition; but ſuſpicious of their intentions, he baſely murdered Sitſylt, his ſon Geoffrey, and other chieftains of Gwent, whom he invited to a feaſt in the caſtle. If we may credit the account of the Welſh chronicles, he afterwards repaired to Sitſylt's houſe, and ſlew the other ſon, Cadwallader, in his mother's preſence *. This barbarous act was amply revenged on himſelf, his wife, and family. Having incurred the reſentment of king John, he, his wife Maud, and their ſon William, were arreſted: according to Matthew of Weſtmiſter, his wife and ſon were famiſhed at Windſor; William, after eſcaping abroad in the habit of a beggar, wandered as a fugitive from place to place, and dying at Paris, in 1212, was interred in the abbey of St. Victor.

His ſon Reginald obtained poſſeſſion of Abergavenny, and of the other caſtles which belonged to his father, and dying in 1222, tranſmitted them to William his ſon, whoſe end was no leſs tragical than that of his grandfather. "Being ſuſpected," as Dugdale ſays, "of over much familiarity with the wife of Lewe-

line

* Powell's Hiſtory of Wales, p. 200.

line, prince of Wales (ſiſter to king Henry) he was, by him, ſubtilly invited to an Eaſter feaſt, but after the entertainment was over, was charged therewith by Leweline, and caſt into priſon, where he ſuffered death by barbarous murther. Some ſay he was hanged, and the wife of Leweline with him." William leaving no iſſue male, his great property was divided among his four daughters; of whom Eve conveyed the honour and lands of Abergavenny as her dower, to her huſband William de Cantilupe. Their ſon George dying, in 1272, without iſſue, was ſucceeded in the barony by his nephew John de Haſtings, who held this caſtle by homage, ward, and marriage; covenanting, in caſe of war between the king of England and prince of Wales, to defend the country of Overwent "at his own charge, to the utmoſt of his power, and for the good of himſelf, the king, and kingdom *."

John de Haſtings is repreſented, in an heraldic poem, as the mirror of chivalry, blending courteſy with deeds of arms; as bold and impetuous in the battle, as gentle and debonnaire in time of peace, and executing juſtice with wiſdom and impartiality. He had a light and ſtrong ſhield, and a banner with emblaſoned arms, or a manche gules †. Having eſpouſed Iſabel, daughter of William, ſiſter and at length coheir to Adomere de Valence, earl of Pembroke, his grandſon Laurence, became earl of Pembroke, as well as lord of Abergavenny.

John, ſon of Laurence, being made lieutenant of Aquitain, was attacked and taken priſoner by the Spaniards (1372). After a confinement of four years in Spain, "with moſt inhumane uſage," he was at length releaſed, under condition of paying an exorbitant ranſom, but died in his journey to Calais, in the 30th year of his age. With the king's licenſe he entailed, in failure of heirs male, the caſtle and lordſhip of Bergavenny, and other lands in England and Wales, on his couſin ſir William Beauchamp, fourth ſon of Thomas earl of Warwick, by Katherine, daughter of Roger lord Mortimer. This diſpoſition took effect on the death of his ſon John, who was ſlain at a tournament in the 17th year of his age (1389.)

Sir William Beauchamp, who on the untimely death of John ſucceeded to the barony

* Camden's Britannia, vol. 2. p. 716. † Antiquarian Repertory, vol. 2. p. 137.

barony of Bergavenny, diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his military proweſs in ſeveral campaigns, under John of Gaunt duke of Lancaſter, and in reward for his ſervices was intruſted with the important command of Calais. In this ſituation, he gave a proof of manly firmneſs and high integrity: the duke of Gloceſter, aided by a powerful confederacy of the barons, having taken up arms for the purpoſe of compelling Richard the ſecond to diſmiſs his favourites, the king formed the deſign of retiring into France, and purchaſing the aſſiſtance of Charles the ſixth, by the ſurrender of the principal fortreſſes poſſeſſed by the Engliſh in that realm. Apprehenſive leſt the inflexible integrity of ſir William Beauchamp ſhould impede his deſign, Richard ordered him to relinquiſh the command of Calais, and tranſmit certain letters to the court of France; in reply to this order, he declared, "that he would not reſign in a private and unauthoriſed manner, that charge and truſt which he had received publicly from the king, in the preſence and with the conſent of his nobles." At the ſame time he tranſmitted the letters to the duke of Gloceſter in England. He afterwards arreſted John de la Pole, brother of the earl of Suffolk, the royal minion, who was ſent to ſuperſede him as captain of Calais, and conveyed him a priſoner to England. For this bold meaſure, which totally diſconcerted the king's deſigns, he was committed to priſon, but ſoon releaſed; and being again reſtored to his honours and eſtates, was, on the 23d of November 1392, firſt ſummoned to parliament as baron Bergavenny. He was highly favoured by Henry the fourth, who made him a knight of the garter, and appointed him juſtice of South Wales for life. He died in 1411, after ſettling, by a ſpecial entail, the caſtle and lordſhip of Abergavenny, in failure of his iſſue male, on his brother Thomas earl of Warwick, and his heirs male.

He was ſucceeded in the lordſhip of Abergavenny by his ſon Richard, who emulating his father's actions, was, for his military ſervices, advanced by Henry the fifth to the earldom of Worceſter, and obtained large grants of lands in Normandy. He did not long enjoy theſe marks of royal favour; for he fell a victim to his military ardour, being mortally wounded in his ſide by a ſtone from a ſling. He died in 1420, leaving, by his wife Iſabel, ſiſter and heir of Richard le De-

ſpenſer, an only daughter, Eliſabeth, who married ſir Edward Nevill, fourth ſon of Ralph earl of Weſtmoreland, to whom ſhe conveyed all her father's poſſeſſions, excepting the caſtle and lordſhip of Abergavenny, which by the ſpecial entail deſcended to Richard, eldeſt ſon and heir of Thomas earl of Warwick.

Richard earl of Warwick, who thus became baron of Abergavenny, was one of the moſt puiſſant and valorous nobles of his age, and by his feats in arms almoſt realiſed the fabulous adventures of Guy earl of Warwick, his renowned anceſtor. He ſignaliſed himſelf at a very early age in ſuppreſſing the rebellion of Owen Glendower, whoſe ſtandard he took in open combat, and gained great honour at the memorable battle of Shrewſbury. Without recounting the numerous inſtances of his military ſkill and heroic intrepidity, which greatly contributed to the ſucceſs of the Engliſh arms in France; it will be ſufficient to obſerve, that he was the friend and companion in arms of Henry the fifth, who gratefully rewarded his ſervices by repeated marks of favour, and gave the higheſt teſtimony of his reſpect, by appointing him guardian to his infant ſon.

He was no leſs diſtinguiſhed by foreign princes than by his own ſovereign; being deputed, with a retinue of 800 horſe, to accompany the Engliſh prelates to the general council of Conſtance, he received uncommon marks of approbation from the emperor Sigiſmond and his conſort. Having ſignaliſed himſelf at a tournament, the empreſs took his badge from the ſhoulder of one of his knights, and placed it on her own. The emperor alſo, on his arrival in England, ſaid to Henry the fifth, "No chriſtian prince has ſuch a knight, for wiſdom, nurture, and manhood; and if all courteſy was loſt on earth, it might yet be found again in him:" hence he was denominated "the *father of courteſy*."

He was not only the moſt diſtinguiſhed warrior, but the greateſt traveller of his age. After viſiting France and Italy, he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was received at Jeruſalem with the higheſt marks of reſpect, as well for his own valour, as for his deſcent from Guy earl of Warwick, whoſe romantic hiſtory was adapted to the genius of the eaſt. From Jeruſalem he returned to Venice, and continued his travels through Ruſſia, Lithuania, Poland, Pruſſia, and Germany. During this expedition, he performed extraordinary feats of chivalry

in divers tournaments, in which he ſurpaſſed all his contemporaries. But he even ſurpaſſed himſelf in a tournament which he held near Calais in 1416. An account of this ſingular adventure is related by Dugdale from an ancient manuſcript with ſuch ſpirit and ſimplicity, that it cannot be abridged without injury to the narrative *. He died at Rouen in Normandy in 1439; bearing the high office of regent of France.

Henry his ſon by his ſecond wife Iſabel, widow of Richard de Beauchamp earl of Worceſter, gave proofs of early proweſs. In conſideration of his ſervices in defence of the duchy of Aquitain, before he had accompliſhed the age of nineteen,

* "Whereupon he ſoon haſted to Calais, and the more ſpeedily, becauſe he heard, that the French were raiſing great forces againſt that place; but when he underſtood, that thoſe forces bent another way, he reſolved to put in practice ſome new point of chevalry, cauſing three ſhields to be made, and in each of them a lady painted; the firſt harping at the end of a bedſtead, with a grate of gold on her left ſleeve, and her knight called the *green knight*, with a black quarter, who was ready to juſt with any knight of France twelve courſes; having two ſhields of purveyance, and his letter ſealed with the ſeal of his arms, *the field ſilver, a manch, gules*; the ſecond pavice or ſhield, had a lady ſitting at a covered board working pearls, and on her ſleeve a glove of plate tacked, her knight being called chevalier Vert, having his letter ſealed with theſe arms, *the field ſilver, two bars of gules*, who was to juſt fifteen courſes, and that ſhould be ſaddles of chains; the third pavice had a lady ſitting in a garden making a chaplet, and on her ſleeve a polein with a rivet, her knight being called *chevalier attendant*, who with his fellow muſt run and courſe with ſharp ſpears, his letter being ſealed *with gold and gules quarterly, and a border vert*; which letters were ſent to the king's court of France, where three French knights received them, and promiſed their fellows to meet at a day and place aſſigned: whereupon the firſt was a knight called ſir Gerard Herbaumes, who called himſelf *le chevalier rouge*; the ſecond a famous knight, called ſir Hugh Launey, calling himſelf *le chevalier Blanke*; and the third a knight named ſir Collard Fines. Twelfday in Chriſtmas being appointed for the time, that they ſhould meet in a land called the Park hedge of Gynes.

"On which day, this earl came into the field with his face covered, a plume of oſtrich feathers upon his helm, and his horſe trapped with the lord Toney's arms, (one of his anceſtors) viz. *argent a manch gules*, where firſt encountering with the *chevalier Rouge*, at the third courſe he unhorſed him, and ſo returned with cloſe vizor unknown to his pavilion, whence he ſent to that knight a good courſer.

"The next day he came into the field with his vizor cloſe, a chaplet on his helm, and a plume of oſtrich feathers aloft, his horſe trapped with the arms of Hanſlap, viz *ſilver two bars gules*, where he met with the *blank knight*, with whom he encountered, ſmote off his vizor thrice, broke his beſagues, and other harneys, and returned victoriouſly to his pavilion with all his own habiliments ſafe, and as yet not known to any; from whence he ſent this *blank knight*, ſir Hugh Launey, a good courſer.

"But the morrow after, being the laſt day of the juſts he came with his face open, and his helmet as the day before, ſave that the chaplet was rich with pearl and precious ſtones, and in his coat of arms of Guy and Beauchamp quarterly; having the arms of Toney and Hanſlap on his trappers, and ſaid that as he had in his own perſon performed the ſervice the two days before, ſo with God's grace he would the third. Whereupon encountering with ſir Collard Fines, at every ſtroke he bore him backward to his horſe, inſomuch, as the Frenchmen ſaying, that he himſelf was bound to his ſaddle; he alighted and preſently got up again. But all being ended, he returned to his pavilion, ſent to ſir Collard Fines a fair courſer, feaſted all the people, gave to thoſe three knights great rewards, and ſo rode to Calais with great honour."

Dugdale's Baronage, vol. 1. p. 244.

nineteen, he was created by Henry the ſixth "primier earl of England, and for "a diſtinction between him and other earls, the king granted to him and the "heirs male of his body, leave to wear a golden coronet, as well in his own pre-"ſence, as elſewhere, upon ſuch great feſtivals as the like uſed to be worn." He alſo conferred on him the title of duke of Warwick, declared him king of the Iſle of Wight, and placed the crown on his head with his own hands*. He lived only to receive theſe mighty honours; for he died in 1445, in the twenty-ſecond year of his age, leaving an infant daughter, Anne, who became ward to the crown, and died in her infancy.

On the death of the duke of Warwick, ſir Edward Nevill, by petition to the throne, obtained the barony, and had livery of the caſtle in right of his wife Eliſabeth, ſole daughter of Richard Beauchamp earl of Worceſter. But although he thus obtained livery of the caſtle, and both he and his deſcendants were ſummoned to parliament under the title of barons of Bergavenny, yet he never acquired poſſeſſion; he was excluded by Richard Nevill, ſon of the earl of Saliſbury, who, in virtue of his marriage with Anne, ſiſter of the late duke, obtained the earldom of Warwick, and together with his other poſſeſſions, the caſtle of Abergavenny; all oppoſition being ineffectual to the will of the *great king maker*.

Warwick being ſlain at the battle of Barnet field, the chief part of his poſſeſſions ought to have reverted to his widow, as heireſs of the houſe of Beauchamp; but they were ſettled by act of parliament on her two daughters, Iſabel, who eſpouſed George duke of Clarence, and Anne, the wife of Richard duke of Gloceſter. Accordingly the caſtle was retained by the duke of Clarence; and on his attainder by the duke of Gloceſter, afterwards Richard the third. After the death of Richard, the unfortunate widow of Warwick, who had ſuffered extreme poverty, was reſtored to her inheritance by another act of parliament: but this reſtoration was a mere formality; for ſhe was no ſooner reinſtated, than ſhe was compelled to ſurrender them by a deed of enfeoffment to Henry the ſeventh. Dugdale has enumerated the poſſeſſions which ſhe thus yielded to the crown;

* Leland's Itin. vol. 6. p. 91.

to the detriment of her grandſon, the unfortunate earl of Warwick, who was impriſoned in the tower, and afterwards beheaded for a ſuppoſed conſpiracy.

The caſtle, thus wreſted from the houſe of Warwick, and detained from the Nevills, was, with many other poſſeſſions, granted * by Henry the ſeventh, to his uncle Jaſper de Hatfield, earl of Pembroke, who had greatlycontributed to raiſe him to the throne, and was recently created duke of Bedford.

On his death, in 1495, without iſſue, the caſtle reverted to the crown; but in the reign of Henry the eighth was reſtored to George, grandſon of ſir Edward Nevill, upon a petition of right preſented to the king †.

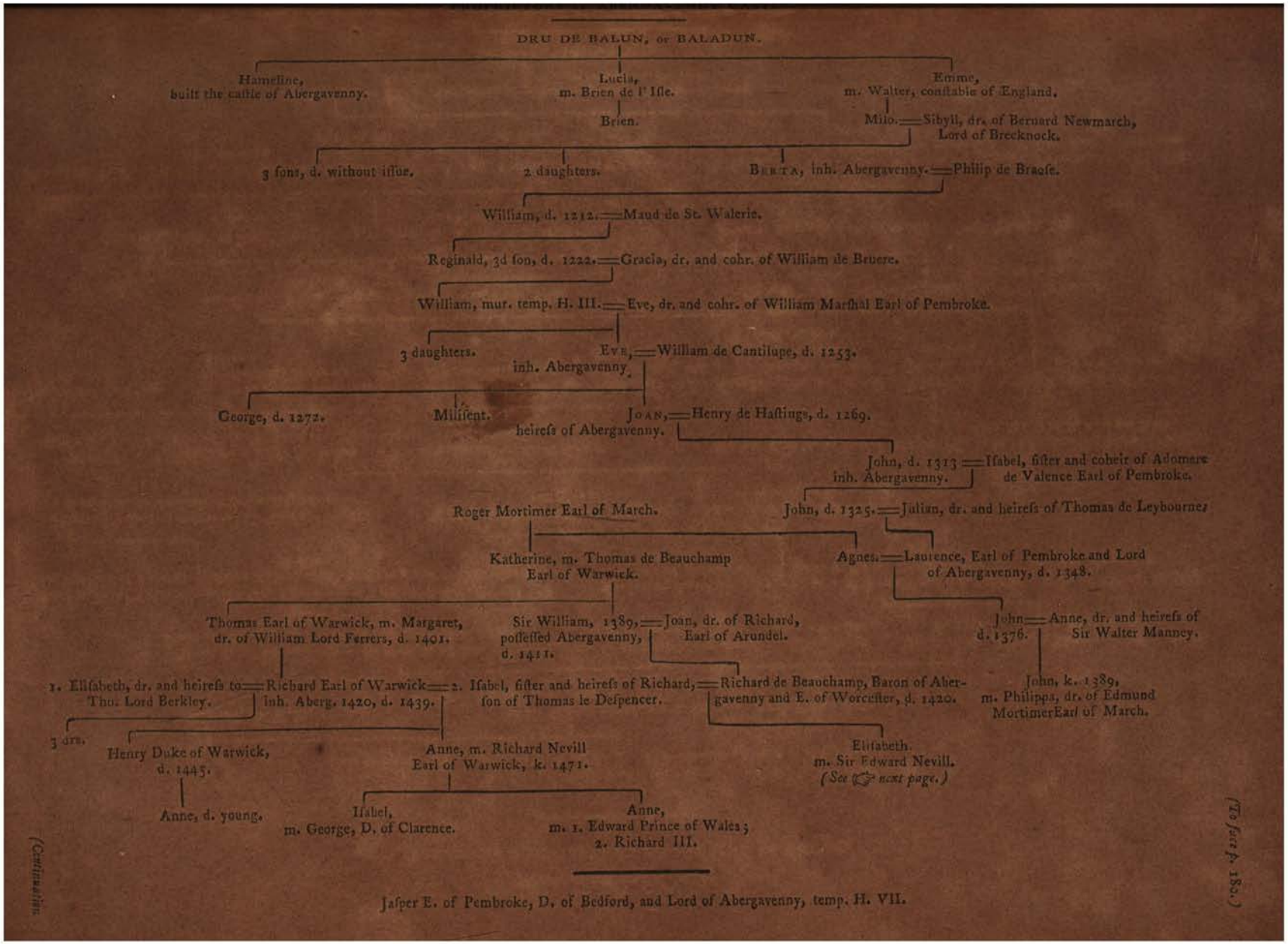
Henry, the ſon of George, dying in 1586, leaving an only daughter, Mary, married to ſir Thomas Fane, knight, the caſtle of Abergavenny, in virtue of the entail, deſcended to his brother, ſir Edward Nevill; but the barony was claimed by both parties, and the diſpute was not decided until 1605. After a pleading of ſeven days, the houſe of peers declared, that each of the claimants ſeemed, in reſpect of deſcent, worthy of the dignity; and as the baronies of Abergavenny and le Deſpencer, belonged hereditarily to the family, requeſted the king to honour both parties with the title of baron; to which he agreed.

The lord chancellor propoſing to the peers, whether the heir male or female ſhould enjoy the title of Abergavenny, the majority voted for the heir male; he then propoſed, that the title of baron le Deſpenſer ſhould be conferred on the female and her heirs; they unanimouſly aſſented. Accordingly, Edward was ſummoned to parliament by the king's writ, under the title of baron Abergavenny, and being introduced, was placed above the baron de Audeley. At the ſame time the king's letters patent were read, reſtoring the barony of le Deſpenſer

* It appears from the docket of a grant, in the Heralds' Office, book W. Q, fol. 25, from Henry the ſeventh, in the third year of his reign, that the ſaid king "gave and granted to Jaſper duke of Bedford the caſtle, with all the lands, members, and appurtenances of Burgavenny, otherwiſe called Abergavenny.

† It declared "how Richard Nevill earl of War- "wick had wrongfully diſſeiſed ſir Edward Nevill "lord of Bergavenny his grandfather; and how by "that diſſeiſon, the ſaid caſtle and lordſhip had been, "by the heirs of the ſaid earl, wrongfully withholden "and detained from the right heirs of the foreſaid "ſir William Beauchamp, lord of Bergavenny, that "firſt made the entail; which heirs, notwithſtanding "the want of poſſeſſion of the ſaid caſtle and lordſhip "in all this mean time, have always been ſummoned "and called to the parliaments holden in their dayes, "as lords and barons of Bergavenny, and for ſuch "have been eſteemed, reputed, and taken, during "their lives."

Collins's Baronies by Writ, p. 178—79.


DRU DE BALUN, or BALADUN.
Hameline, built the caſtle of Abergavenny.
Lucia, m. Brien de l' Iſle.
Brien.
Emme, m. Walter, conſtable of England.
Milo.
Sibyll, dr. of Bernard Newmarch, Lord of Brecknock.
3 ſons, d. without iſſue.
2 daughters.
BERTA, inh. Abergavenny.
Philip de Braoſe.
William, d. 1212.
Maud de St. Walerie.
Reginald, 3d ſon, d. 1222.
Gracia, dr. and cohr. of William de Bruere.
William, mur. temp. H. III.
Eve, dr. and cohr. of William Marſhal Earl of Pembroke.
3 daughters.
EVE, inh. Abergavenny.
William de Cantilupe, d. 1253.
George, d. 1272.
Milliſent.
JOAN, heireſs of Abergavenny.
Henry de Haſtings, d. 1269.
John, d. 1313 inh. Abergavenny.
Iſabel, ſiſter and coheir of Adomare de Valence Earl of Pembroke.
Roger Mortimer Earl of March.
John, d. 1325.
Julian, dr. and heireſs of Thomas de Leybourne.
Katherine, m. Thomas de Beauchamp Earl of Warwick.
Agnes.
Laurence, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Abergavenny, d. 1348.
Thomas Earl of Warwick, m. Margaret, dr. of William Lord Ferrers, d. 1401.
Sir William, 1389, poſſeſſed Abergavenny, d. 1411.
Joan, dr. of Richard, Earl of Arundel.
John d. 1376.
Anne, dr. and heireſs of Sir Walter Manney.
1. Eliſabeth, dr. and heireſs to Thos. Lord Berkley.
Richard Earl of Warwick inh. Aberg. 1420, d. 1439.
2. Iſabel, ſiſter and heireſs of Richard, ſon of Thomas le Deſpencer.
Richard de Beauchamp, Baron of Abergavenny and E. of Worceſter, d. 1420.
John, k. 1389, m. Philippa, dr. of Edmund Mortimer Earl of March.
3 drs.
Henry Duke of Warwick, d. 1445.
Anne, m. Richard Nevill Earl of Warwick, k. 1471.
Eliſabeth. m. Sir Edward Nevill.
(See next page.)
Anne, d. young.
Iſabel, m. George, D. of Clarence.
Anne, m. 1. Edward Prince of Wales; 2. Richard III.
Jaſper E. of Pembroke, D. of Bedford, and Lord of Abergavenny, temp. H. VII.

(Continuation.)

(To face p. 182.)

(Continuation of the Pedigree.)

BARONS OF ABERGAVENNY OF THE LINE OF NEVILL.

☞ 1. Sir Edward Nevill, sum. as Baron Abergavenny, 1450, d. 1476. = ELISABETH, sole dr. and heiress of Richard de Beauchamp, heiress of Bergavenny.

- Richard, ob. V. P.
- 2. Sir George, Baron Abergavenny, d. 1492. = Margaret, dr. of Sir Hugh Fenne, Knt.
  - Mary, dr. of Edward Duke of Buckingham. = - - 3. George, 1st son, Baron Abergavenny, d. 1535. = 2. Joan, dr. of Thomas Fitzalan Earl of Arundel. = 3. Mary, dr. of - - - - Brooke.
    - Frances, dr. of Thomas Manners Earl of Rutland. = - - - 4. Henry - - - - - Baron Abergavenny, d. 1587. * *Note.* = Elisabeth, dr. and heir of Stephen Darrell.
      - Mary, only dr. and heiress m. Sir Thomas Fane, Knt. sum. as Baroness le Despencer, 1603.
  - Catherine, dr. of Sir John Brown of Halton, co. Oxf. Knt. = - - - 5. Edward - - - - - succ. as Baron Abergavenny, 1587, d. 1589. = Grisald, dr. of Thomas Hughs, of Uxbridge, Esq.
    - 6. Edward, declared Baron Abergavenny 1603, d. 1622. = Rachel, dr. of John Lennard, of Knolle, in Kent, Esq.
      - Mary, dr. of Thomas Sackville, E. of Dorset. = - - - 7. Sir Henry - - - - - Baron Abergavenny, d. 1642. = Catherine, dr. of George Baron Vaux.
        - Sir Thomas, 1st son, ob. V. P.
        - 8. John, succ. as Baron Abergavenny, 1642, d. 1660. = Elisabeth, dr. and cohr. of William Chamberlain, Esq.
        - 9. George, succ. as Baron Abergavenny, 1660, d. 1666. = Mary, dr. and hr. of Thomas, son and heir of Henry Gifford, Esq.
          - 10. George, Baron Abergavenny, d. 1694. = Honora, dr. of John Baron Beliasis.
            - 11. George, succ. as Baron Abergavenny, 1694, d. 1721. = Ann, dr. of Nehemiah Walker, co. Midd. Esq.
              - Henry, ob. V. P.
              - 12. George, Baron Abergavenny, d. 1723. = Elisabeth, dr. of Edward Thornicroft, of Westminster. Esq.
              - 13. Edward, succ. as Baron Abergavenny, 1723, d. 1724. = - - - Catherine, - - - dr. of Lt. Gen. Tatton. = - - 14. William - - - succ. as Baron Abergavenny 1724, d. 1744. = 2d Rebecca, dr. of Thomas Herbert Earl of Pembroke.
                - 15. George, 1st Earl of Abergavenny d. 1785. = Henrietta, dr. of Thomas Pelham of Stanmore, co. Suff.
                - 16. Henry, 2d Earl, b. 1755.
                - William, b. 1741.
      - Sir Christopher, 3d son, d. 1649 = Mary, dr. and cohr. of Thomas D'arcy, of Folston D'arcy, Esq. co. Essex.
        - Richard, seated at Newton, St. Low. co. Som. = Sophia, dr. of - - - - - - - - - - -
          - George, seated at Sheffield, co. Suff. = Mary, dr. of Sir Bulstrode Whitlock, Knt.
            - Edward, d. 1701. = Hannah, dr. of Jervis Thorpe, Esq.
  - Sir Edward, 3d son d. 1538. = Eleanor, dr. of Andrew Lord Windsor.

* The reader is desired to correct two errors in the text, [illegible]

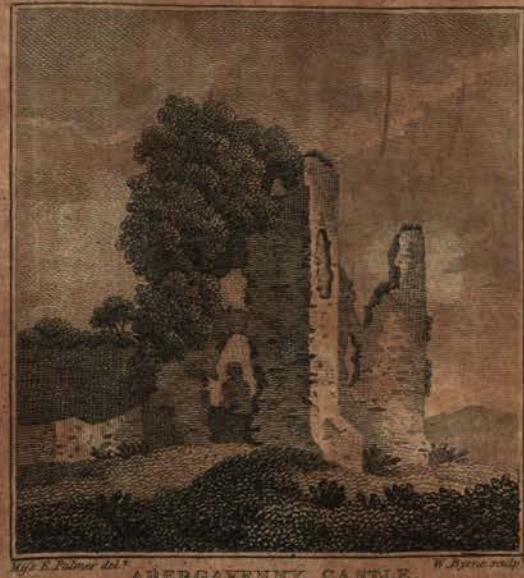
Deſpenſer to Mary Fané and her heirs. But on the queſtion of precedency, the peers referred to the commiſſioners for the office of earl marſhal of England, who decided in favour of le Deſpencer *.

The lineal deſcendants of ſir Edward Nevill have ſince continued in poſſeſſion of the caſtle and barony. In 1784, George, the fifteenth lord of this line, was created viſcount Nevill and earl of Abergavenny; on whoſe death, his titles and eſtates, together with the caſtle, deſcended to Henry, the preſent earl.

The title of Abergavenny is the only one remaining of thoſe numerous baronies conferred by the kings on the great Norman chieftains who conquered Wales, and like the earldom of Arundel, is a feudal honour or local dignity, by inheritance and poſſeſſion of the caſtle, without any other creation †.

* Camden's Britannia, vol. 1. p. 716.

† For the contents of this chapter, have been principally conſulted, Powell's Hiſtory of Wales; Dugdale's Monaſticon; Dugdale's Baronage, art. Baladun or Balun, de l' Iſle, Braoſe, Cantilupe, Haſtings, Beauchamp, Nevill; Collins's Peerage; Edmonſon's Hiſtorical Account of the Greville family; Edmonſon's Baronagium; Collins's Baronies by Writ.



Miſs E. Palmer del.ᵗ W. Byrne ſculp.ᵗ

ABERGAVENNY CASTLE.

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CHAPTER 19.

Ancient Pariſh Church.—Priory.—St. Mary's Church.—Herbert Chapel.—Monuments.—Sir William ap Thomas.—Sir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook.—Sir Richard Herbert of Ewias.—Other Sepulchral Memorials.—Epitaph on the Roberts Family.

BEFORE the diſſolution Abergavenny contained two churches; one dedicated to St. John was the pariſh church, and the other was the chapel of the priory. At the diſſolution the former was appropriated by Henry the eighth to the free ſchool which he then endowed; being in a ſtate of decay, it was taken down about fifty years ago, and rebuilt in its preſent form, with a handſome embattled tower, which gives it the appearance of a religious edifice.

An alien priory of Benedictine monks, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was founded at Abergavenny, by Hameline Balun*, or Baladun, in the latter end of the reign of William the conqueror, or the beginning of William Rufus. One of his poſterity, William de Braoſe, in the reign of king John, "gave the tithes of his caſtle, viz. of bread, wine, beer, cyder, all manner of fleſh, fiſh, ſalt, honey, wax, tallow, and in general whatſoever ſhould be brought thither and ſpent there, upon condition that the abbot and convent of St. Vincent's in Mans, (to which this priory was a cell) ſhould daily pray for the ſoul of king Henry the firſt, as alſo for the ſoul of him the ſaid William, and the ſoul of Maud his wife †."

At

* Speed erroneouſly attributes the foundation of this priory to John de Haſtings, who only confirmed the grants of his predeceſſors.

† Dugdale, vol. 1. p. 418. Monaſt. vol. 1. p. 556. Tanner art. Monmouthſhire.

At the diſſolution it contained a prior and four monks, whoſe revenues amounted to £. 129. 5s. 8d. according to Dugdale, and £. 59. 4s. according to Speed. At that period, William Marley was prior, and received a penſion of £. 9. Thomas Aſtley and Thomas Martin, two of the friars, ſubſcribed to the ſupremacy, 12th September 1534*. Neither Speed, Dugdale, or Tanner mention to whom the ſite was granted. It was long the property of the Gunter family, but I cannot aſcertain at what period or by what means it came into their poſſeſſion. The laſt poſſeſſor of this name was James Gunter, who repreſented the county of Monmouth, and in 1712 died ſuddenly in the Houſe of Commons. His daughter and heireſs Mary, conveyed it to her huſband George Milborne of Wonaſtow. Their ſon Charles having no iſſue male, it was inherited by his daughter Mary, who eſpouſed Thomas Swinnerton of Butterton hall, in the county of Stafford, eſq; and died in 1795, leaving iſſue three daughters †.

The eſtate is ſtill very conſiderable; but the demeſnes of the priory were originally of greater extent. Beſides a wood, named Coed y Prior, ſtretching under the Blorenge, which ſtill belongs to Mr. Swinnerton; a farm, now called Chapel Farm, at the foot of the Derry, and a park occupying part of the Derry and Rolben, and reaching to the bottom of the Sugar Loaf, were once the property of the priory. There are alſo ſome pieces of ground, ſtill called the Priory Meads, and Monk's field, part of the ancient manor of Monk's town, which were purchaſed by counſellor Roberts of Abergavenny, from Mr. Francis Lewis of Landewi Rytherch, to whoſe anceſtors they were probably granted by Henry the eighth. The great tythes, likewiſe, of ſeveral rectories in Monmouthſhire, were parcels of this priory, and at the diſſolution appropriated to the maintenance of the grammar ſchool ‡.

Some remains of the priory ſtill exiſt; they are joined to the nave of the church, and have been converted into a modern houſe, which was the reſidence of the reſpectable families of Gunter and Milborne, but is now untenanted.

The

* Willis's Hiſtory of Mitred Abbies, vol. 2. p. 142. † See the chapter on Wonaſtow. ‡ See chapter 17.

The ancient chapel of the priory is now the pariſh church; it ſeems to have been originally built in the ſhape of a cathedral, but has undergone many alterations, and conſiſts of a nave and north aiſle, part of a tranſept with a tower in the middle, a choir, with two aiſles, and a chancel. The windows and arches are all gothic, but in the tranſept are the remains of a circular arch, now filled up, which has the appearance of Norman architecture. The length from eaſt to weſt is 172 feet, the breadth of the nave and north aiſle 45, and of the choir and two ſide aiſles 67. The nave is ſeparated from the north aiſle by three gothic arches of different heights and breadths, and an opening of an oblong ſhape with a flat roof, which has a ſingular and heterogeneous appearance*.

The choir retains its original ſtate, with ſtalls on each ſide, of oak coarſely carved; the ſeat of the prior is ſurmounted with a mitre; but from what cauſe this diſtinction was derived I could not aſcertain †.

In this church are many ancient and curious monuments; part of the ſouth aiſle of the choir is called the Herbert chapel, becauſe it was the cemetery of ſeveral branches of that illuſtrious family ſeated in the vicinity; it likewiſe contains monuments of other memorable perſonages, who were lords of Abergavenny. All the accounts of theſe ſepulchral memorials which have fallen under my obſervation, are extremely ſcanty and inaccurate, except a curious deſcription from an old manuſcript printed in Gough's edition of Camden, and that of the rhyming poetaſter ‡ whom I have often quoted, and found a better *Cicerone* than all the ſucceſſive writers on Monmouthſhire, who have done nothing more than tranſcribe paſſages from Gough.

On

* The ſpring of the middle arch is 25 feet 10 inches, the height 24 feet 4 inches. The ſpring of the ſmalleſt arch is only 8 feet 6 inches, and the height 15 feet. The height of the oblong opening 25 feet 4 inches, and the breadth 9 feet 7 inches. The pillars are of equal height, the ſhafts meaſuring 10 feet.

† The abbey of St. Vincent's in Mans was a mitred abbey; but that circumſtance did not confer the privilege on any of its cells to aſſume the mitre. It probably aroſe from ſome ſpecial grant to the prior of Abergavenny; ſuch grants were not unuſual; for there were mitred priors as well as mitred abbots, though the former did not, perhaps, ſit in parliament.

‡ Churchyard. Worthines of Wales, p. 55.—62.

On the ſouth ſide, in a receſs of the wall, ornamented with gothic niches, is a rude figure in ſtone, of a knight croſs legged, clad in a coat of mail, a helmet on his head, the left hand on his breaſt, the right claſping the hilt of his ſword. His feet repoſe on a greyhound, from which an abſurd legend has been invented, and the old ſexton never fails to relate the ſtory: the knight returning home ſaw a cradle, in which was his infant ſon, overturned, the child covered with gore, and a greyhound ſtanding by with his mouth bloody. Convinced that the dog had worried the child, he killed it on the ſpot, but ſoon diſcovered that the faithful animal had ſaved the infant by deſtroying a ſerpent which attacked it, and that the gore was the blood of the ſerpent; in memory of his regret and gratitude, he cauſed the figure of the dog to be placed on his tomb. The perſon here buried is unknown, but ſuppoſed to have been a ſtranger, and a knight templar. The account of his arms, which are now defaced, given by Churchyard, might lead one more verſed in heraldry than myſelf to diſcover his family *.

On the north ſide of the ſecond arch of the choir, lies a recumbent effigies in freeſtone, of a man with his hands uplifted in a ſhort coat of mail; on his head is a helmet, on the left arm a ſhield, a long ſword on the ſame ſide, on his right a dagger, and at his feet a bull; the figure is ſeven feet in length. From the image of the bull a legend, no leſs abſurd than that of the greyhound, has been invented, and is thus related in the rude ſtyle of Churchyard:

" His force was much, for he by ſtrength,
" With bull did ſtruggle ſo,
" He broke cleane off his hornes at length,
" And therewith let him go."

The perſon here buried, was probably ſir Edward Nevill, who became baron of Abergavenny in right of his wife Eliſabeth, daughter of Richard de Beauchamp.

In

* " Three golden lions gay,
" Nine flower deluces there likewiſe
" His armes doth full diſplay."

Worthines of Wales, p. 55.

In the middle of the chapel is a monument, richly carved in alabaſter, of ſir William ap Thomas, and his wife Gladys, the parents of William Herbert firſt earl of Pembroke, of that name, and of ſir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook. Their effigies lie in a recumbent poſture on the top of the ſepulchre: he is habited in a complete ſuit of armour, with a dagger hanging from a rich belt; his head repoſes on the buſt of a blackamoor, which was his creſt, and is ſtill borne by ſome branches of the family *; his feet reſt on a lion. His wife is dreſſed in a cloſe garment covered with a looſe robe, and repoſes on a cuſhion, ſupported by two ſmall figures, much dilapidated, but which appear to have been angels; at her feet are two dogs. On each ſide of the tomb are twelve ſmall whole length alabaſter figures in relievo, holding ſcrolls; thoſe on the ſouth ſide are ſaid to repreſent the twelve apoſtles, thoſe on the north are probably martyrs; one has a ſword hanging from his girdle. At the eaſtern end is a larger compartment, much broken, containing the ſalutation of the Virgin Mary, with an angel on each ſide.

Sir William was ſon of Thomas ap Gwillim, buried at Lanſanfraed, by Maud, daughter of ſir John Morley, from whom he inherited the caſtle of Raglan. He is principally known as the father of William Herbert earl of Pembroke, and of ſir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook; but he was a man of diſtinguiſhed valour, and in 1415 was created knight banneret † for his military atchievements. Gladys his wife was daughter of ſir David Gam, and widow of ſir Roger Vaughan, both of whom fell in defending the perſon of Henry the fifth at the memorable battle of Agincourt, and were knighted as they lay extended on the field of battle in the agonies of death ‡.

The aſhes of ſir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook, and of his wife Margaret, daughter of ſir Thomas ap Griffith §, knight, repoſe beneath an alabaſter monument, under the furtheſt arch between the chapel and the choir. Their figures are recumbent, with uplifted hands; he is repreſented in a ſuit of mail with his head bare, and

* Jones's of Lanarth, and the Powells of Perthir. Some ſuppoſe it to be a friar's head with a wreath.

† Edmonſon's Baronagium Genealogicum, p. 263.

‡ Powell's Hiſtory of Wales, p. 323. See alſo chapter 30.

§ See an intereſting account of ſir Thomas ap Griffith in the Cambrian Regiſter, vol. 1.

Birrell sc

MONUMENTAL EFFIGIES of S.R W.M AP THOMAS

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and ſupported by a ſheaf of arrows, which was his creſt; his feet reſt on a lion. His lady is habited in a long robe, her head repoſes on a cuſhion, ſupported by two figures much broken, probably angels, and her feet reſt on two dogs. The ſides of the ſepulchre are decorated with ſmall figures in relievo holding eſcutcheons; but the whole is ſo defaced, that ſcarcely any of the images can be aſcertained, except thoſe of St. George and the dragon, and of the virgin and child.

Sir Richard was the proprietor of Coldbrook houſe near Abergavenny, and as he principally reſided there, was diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of ſir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook. He was a man of uncommon height and proweſs, and in the days when heavy armour was worn, and perſonal ſtrength an object of high conſideration, greatly ſignaliſed himſelf in feats of arms. During the civil wars between the houſes of York and Lancaſter he adhered to the white roſe, and aſſiſted in raiſing Edward the fourth to the throne. He followed the ſtandard of his brother the earl of Pembroke to the battle of Banbury, and diſplayed ſuch ſtriking inſtances of courage and force, as are ſcarcely to be equalled in the annals of chivalry. The curious circumſtances which preceded and accompanied his capture and death, are related by his noble deſcendant lord Herbert of Cherbury.

" The earl of Pembroke having with his brother ſir Richard Herbert ap-
" prehended ſeven brothers in Angleſey, who had committed many murthers,
" commanded them to be hanged. The mother entreating him to pardon two
" or at leaſt one of her ſons, aſſuring him that the reſt were enough to ſatisfy
" juſtice as examples, her requeſt was ſeconded by ſir Richard Herbert; but
" the earl finding them all guilty, ſaid that he would make no diſtinction be-
" tween them, and ordered them all to be executed; at which the mother was
" ſo aggrieved, that with a pair of wooden beads at her arms, ſhe on her knees
" curſt him, praying that God's miſchief might fall in the firſt battle that he
" ſhould make.

" The earl of Pembroke having arranged his men in order of battle, found

" his brother ſir Richard Herbert ſtanding at the head of his troops, leaning upon " his pole-ax in a ſad and penſive manner; whereupon the earle ſaid, what doth thy " great body, for he was higher by the head * than any one in the army, appre- " hend any thing, that thou art ſo melancholy, or art thou weary with marching, " that thou doſt lean upon thy pole-ax? Sir Richard Herbert replied, that he was " neither of both, whereof he ſhould ſee the proof preſently, only I cannot but " apprehend on your part, leaſt the curſe of the woman with wooden heads fall " upon you." His actions in this memorable combat did not belie his words, for with his pole-ax he paſſed and returned twice through the enemy's army, killing with his own hand 140 men; which according to the noble biographer, is " more " than is famed of Amadis de Gaul, or the knight of the Sun †."

The valorous efforts of this puiſſant knight and his aſſociates were on the point of obtaining the victory, when the Welſh troops, miſtaking a ſmall corps of the enemy for the advanced guard of the Lancaſtrian army under the earl of Warwick, were ſeiſed with a panic, and fled on all ſides. Thoſe who bravely remained on the field of battle were either killed or taken priſoners; among the latter was ſir Richard Herbert, who with his brother the earl of Pembroke was led in triumph to Banbury, and ſentenced to death on the following day. " Much lamentation, and no leſs entreaty were made to ſave his life, both for his goodly perſonage, and for the noble chivalry which he had diſplayed in the field of battle;" but all entreaties were ineffectual, the ſentence was carried into execution, and ſir Richard Herbert ſuffered death with ſpirit and reſignation.

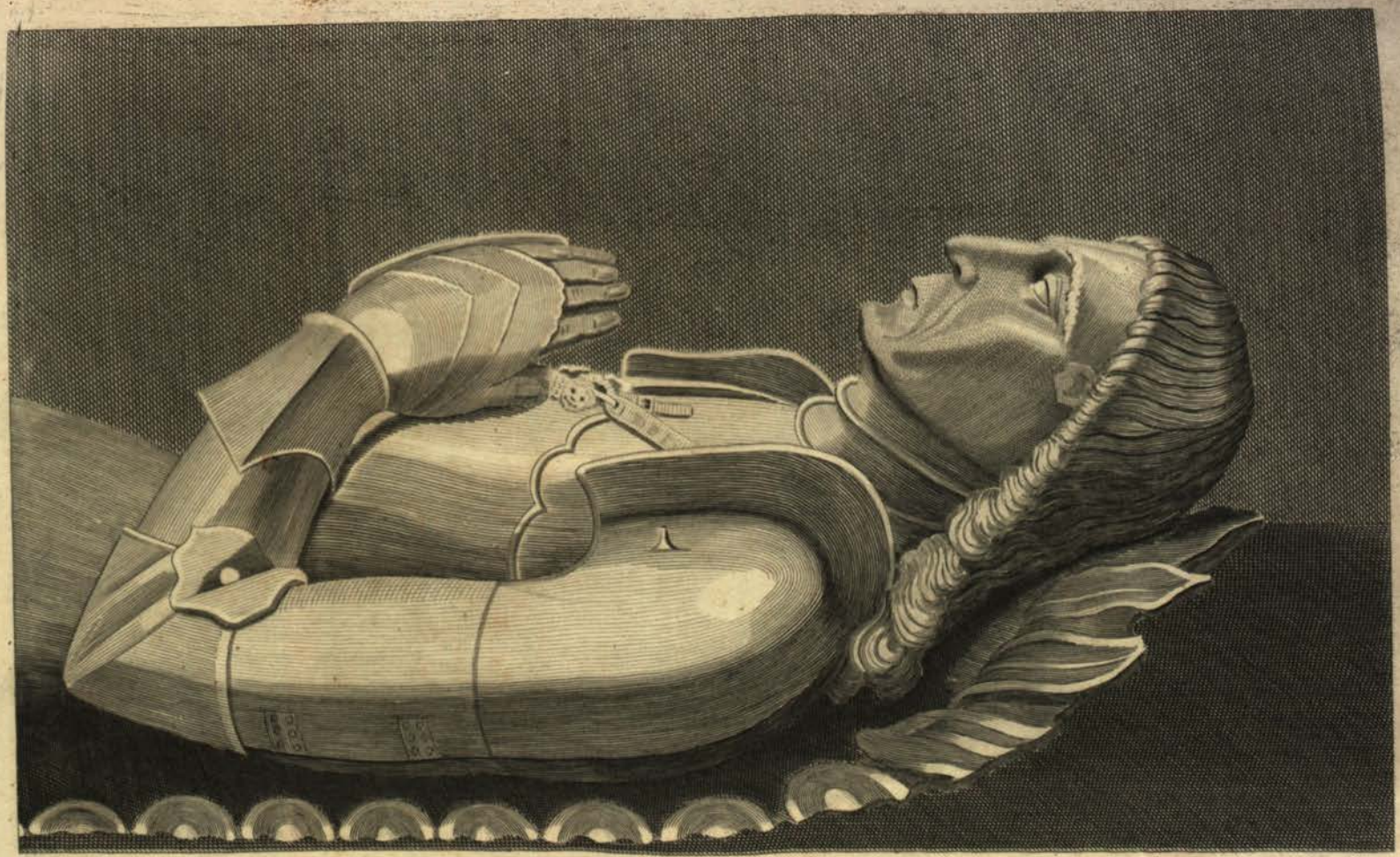
Some perſons miſtake the tomb of ſir Richard Herbert for that of his brother; and others ſuppoſe that the earl of Pembroke was alſo buried in this church in ſome other place. It is certain that in his will dated the day of his death, he ordered his body to be interred in the priory of Abergavenny, between the tomb of his father and the chancel; yet notwithſtanding this poſitive injunction, he appears to have been buried in Tintern abbey ‡.

The

* " Medio dux agmine Turnus
" Vertitur arma tenens, ET TOTO VERTICE SUPRA EST."
Æneis, lib. 9. v. 29.

† Life of lord Herbert of Cherbury, p. 7.—9.

‡ See his will in Dugdale's Baronage, vol. 3. p. 257.



Birrel sc

MONUMENTAL EFFIGIES of Sr. RICHD. HERBERT

Pub. July 20. 1800. by Cadell & Davies Strand.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

The richeſt monument in the church is that of ſir Richard Herbert of Ewias, ſon of William firſt earl of Pembroke, and anceſtor of the earls of Pembroke and Caernarvon. It is placed in a receſs of the ſouth wall: the effigies is recumbent, with uplifted hands, habited in a coat of mail; the head uncovered repoſes on a helmet, and the feet reſt on a lion. Above are the Herbert arms, per pale azure and gules, three lions rampant argent, a battoon over, impaled with azure, three boars heads, between eight croſs croſſlets argent, the arms of his wife Margaret, who was the daughter of ſir Matthew Cradock, knight, of Swanſey, Glamorganſhire. At the back of the monument are ſeveral ſmall figures carved in alabaſter; the largeſt of which is that of a woman aſcending to heaven, ſupported by an angel under her feet, and ſeveral others hovering about her; a man in armour and a woman are kneeling below. This figure is uſually ſuppoſed to be the lady of ſir Richard Herbert, but certainly repreſents the aſcenſion of the Virgin Mary. The kneeling figures are thoſe of ſir Richard Herbert and his lady; on each ſide are their three ſons in armour, and a daughter kneeling; over are eſcutcheons charged with the Herbert and Cradock arms. A long and narrow ſlip of braſs, containing an inſcription, was fixed on the edge of the monument; part of the braſs remains, part is fallen, but the marks on the ſtones are yet viſible:

"HIC JACET RICHARDUS HERBERT DE EWYAS, MILES, QUI OBIIT "NONO DIE * * * * ANNO REGNI REGIS HENRICI OCTAVI, SECUNDO; "CUJUS ANIMÆ PROPITIETUR JESU. AMEN."

Although this chapel was the burial place of the Herbert family ſeated at Coldbrook, yet it does not contain any other memorial, excepting a flat ſepulchral ſtone between the monuments of ſir William ap Thomas, and ſir Richard Herbert. The inſcription commemorates the laſt male of the Coldbrook branch, and is here inſerted, becauſe it aſcertains the exact ſituation of the two above-mentioned monuments, and tends to illuſtrate the genealogy of the family.

" HERE LIETH THE BODY OF SIR JAMES
" HERBERT OF COLDBROOK, KNT.
" WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE Y 6TH
" DAY OF JUNE 1709, IN THE 65 YEAR
" OF HIS AGE; HAVING IN HIS
" LIFE-TIME ENJOYED IN HIS NATIVE
" COUNTRY ALL THE CHIEF HONOURS
" DUE TO HIS BERTH AND QUALLITY AS MEMBER
" OF PARLIAMENT, ETC. AS THEY WERE ENJOYED
" BY HIS ANCESTORS EVER SINCE THE REIGN
" OF KING HENRY THE FIRST, HE BEING THE
" NINETEENTH IN DECENT FROM HERBERT
" LORD CHAMBERLAIN TO THE SAID KING,
" AND THE NINTH FROM SIR RICHARD HERBERT
" OF COLDBROOK, INTERRD UNDER THE TOMB
" ON HIS LEFT SIDE, WHO WITH HIS BROTHER
" WILLIAM FIRST EARL OF PEMBROKE OF THAT
" NAME, WAS (VALIANTLY FIGHTING * * * * *
" KING EDWARD THE FOURTH IN THAT
" GREAT QUARREL BETWEEN THE HOUSES OF YORK
" AND LANCASTER) TAKEN PRISONER. * * * *
" BANBURY, AND BEHEADED AT NORTHAMPTON
" IN THE YEAR 1469; BOTH THE SAID BROTHERS
" BEING SONS OF SIR WILLIAM THOMAS AND
" GLADICE DE GAM, WHO ARE INTERRED UNDER
" THE MIDLE TOMB, YE SAID SIR JAMES
" HERBRRT LEVEING BEHIND HIM LADY JUDITH
" HERBERT, WHO DECEASED THE 12TH DAY
" OF NOVEMBER THE SAME YEAR. THEY
" LEFT BEHIND THEM ONE DAUGHTER HIS
" SOLE HEIR, NAMED JUDITH, MARRIED
" TO SIR THOMAS POWELL, OF BROADWAY
" IN YE COUNTY OF CARMARTHEN, BARONET,
" TO WHOM SHE HATH BORN SEVERAL SONS
" AND DAUGHTERS. HERE ALSO LYETH THE BODY
" OF SIR JAMES POWELL, FIFTH SON OF YE SAID SIR THO
" POWELL, GRANSON OF YE SAID SIR JAMES
" HERBERT, WHO DIED AN INFANT YE 11TH
" DAY OF APRIL 1709.

At the north-eaſtern corner next the chancel, is the tomb of ſir Andrew Powell and his lady. Their effigies in ſtone are recumbent, and habited as a monk and nun. He was a collateral branch of the great Herbert family, and

his wife was a Herbert; he was an Engliſh judge, and lord lieutenant of the counties of Hereford, Monmouth and Brecknock.

Under the firſt arch between the chapel and choir, is a monument of ſtone, with two figures in relievo, of a man and woman kneeling on each ſide of an altar; with a Latin inſcription,

" Hic in Chriſto quieſcens Gulielmus Bakerus, ar. Irenarchia juſtitiæ vindex illibatæ integritatis, &c. ob. 30 Oct. 16 * *.

William Baker who is here commemorated, was ſteward of lord Abergavenny, and his wife was ſiſter of Dr. David Lewis, judge of the admiralty, buried in the chapel of the north aiſle. There is alſo a tablet to the memory of his ſon Richard Baker, counſellor at law. William and Richard are remarkable as the father and brother of David Baker, a learned benedictine friar, whoſe ſudden converſion, ſingular character, and literary labours are recorded by Anthony Wood *.

Among numerous tablets in the church, the clerk never fails to point out a whimſical epitaph inſcribed on a ſepulchral ſtone in the nave:

" Here lyeth one of Abel's race,
" Whom Cain did hvnt from place to place;
" Yet not diſmaid abovt he went,
" Working vntill his daies were ſpent.
" Now having done he takes a nap,
" Here in ovr common Mother's lap,
" Waiting to heare the Bridegroom ſay,
" Ariſe my Deare and come away."
" Obiit Hen: Maurice, 30 die Julii, 1682."

At the northern extremity of the choir are two whole length female figures recumbent, of freeſtone whitewaſhed, of rude and ancient ſculpture, and much dilapidated. In the old manuſcript quoted by Gough, they are called heireſſes of Braioſe, lords of Abergavenny. All the diſtinctions which might lead to aſcertain the perſon repreſented by the firſt figure are defaced. According to Churchyard, who in a marginal note, calls her " *a lady of ſome noble houſe whoſe name I knowe*

* Athenæ Oxonienſes, vol 2. p. 7.

knowe not," ſhe held a ſquirrel on her hand, from which a tale was fabricated, that in endeavouring to catch her ſquirrel ſhe fell from a wall, and was killed. The effigies of the woman at her feet, holds a heart in her hand, and bears on her breaſt a ſhield charged with three large fleurs de lis. Theſe were the arms of the lords of Werndee, and ſeem to indicate, that the perſon here interred was Chriſtian, heireſs of Werndee, who married Adam ap Reginald, deſcendant of Henry Fitzherbert, lord of Lanllowel, and common anceſtor of the different branches of the Herberts.

At the extremity of the northern aiſle is a ſmall chapel called the Lewis chapel, from the monument of Dr. David Lewis, which is placed at its northern ſide, and remarkable for being formed out of a ſingle piece of ſtone. The effigies is recumbent, dreſſed in a long robe, with the hand upon a book; an anchor carved on the front alludes to his office as judge of the admiralty. Of him, Anthony Wood ſays, "David Lewis of All Souls college; he was "afterwards principal of Jeſus college, judge of the high court of admiralty, "maſter of St. Katherine's hoſpital, near to the tower of London, one of the "maſters in chancery, and of her majeſty's requeſts. He died on Monday "the 27th of April 1584, in the college called Doctor's Commons at Lon-"don; whereupon his body was conveyed to Abergavenny in Monmouth-"ſhire, where it was buried on the 24th of May following, in the north chancel "of the church there, under a fair tomb, erected by him while living, which "yet remains as an ornament to that church *." He was ſeated at Landewi Rytherch; the manſion and eſtate continued in the poſſeſſion of his deſcendants till about the middle of this century, when they were ſold to the truſtees of the will of Charles Williams of Caerleon, and united with the Coldbrook eſtate.

In the window, over the ſepulchre of Dr. Lewis, is the recumbent effigies, coarſely carved in wood, of a man with his hands uplifted, and the left leg croſſed over the right; he has a helmet and ſhort coat of mail; his feet reſt on an animal, which is headleſs, but from the claws appears to be a lion. This is undoubtedly the ſame figure which is deſcribed in an old manuſcript quoted by

* Athenæ Oxonienſes, vol. 1. Faſti, p. 72.

by Gough *, and from the arms of *Valence* and *Haſtings* once emblazoned in the window above, was probably John de *Haſtings*, lord of Abergavenny, who eſpouſed Iſabel, daughter and coheireſs of Adomare de *Valence* earl of Pembroke.

In the middle window of the north aiſle of the choir is a coloſſal figure of St. Chriſtopher, with a long beard and flowing hair, carved out of a ſingle piece of wood. I am informed by my friend Mr. Evans, that in Roman catholic times, it was the cuſtom at funerals to carry the corpſe into the northern aiſle, and preſent it to St. Chriſtopher, whoſe figure was uſually there placed, and that ſtill in ſeveral places, (ſo prevalent is long habit) the bearers frequently carry the coffin through the northern aiſle.

In the chancel, within the rails, I noticed a ſepulchral ſtone placed in the upper part of the ſide wall, inſcribed with ſome Latin verſes to the memory of the family of Roberts, and was ſtruck with their elegance and claſſical purity. I read them at firſt with much ſatisfaction as the work of a ſtranger; but my pleaſure was conſiderably heightened on diſcovering that they were compoſed by Dr. Roberts, late provoſt of Eton college, the amenity of whoſe manners, and the purity of whoſe taſte are ſtill remembered and regretted by his friends; and by none more than myſelf, who had the happineſs to receive his inſtructions at that early period, when the mind readily admits new impreſſions, and is moulded into form by the ſkilful hand of the preceptor †.

" Clauditur' hic generis ſeries—Vos pace ſepulti,
" Majorum cineres requieſcite; cum tuba mortis
" Terribili clangore fores effringet ahenas,
" E tumulis exite, domuſque intrate Piorum.
" O ſemper deflende mihi Pater, optima Mater,
" Frater amate, vale; tibi, te mandante, tuiſque,

" Saxa

* " In a window in an iſle of the north ende of " the quire of the ſaide church, is there a very ould " monument in Iriſh oake lying croſſe leggd, the left " legg uppermoſt croſſinge the right with gilt ſpurs " on, and on his armour his ſurcoate, but there is " neither any expreſſion of armes or creſt. Whos it " is I could not learne, moſt probably to bee one of " the auncient lords of Abergavenny; for in the " window over him and in the border of the window " is Valence; his armes were Haſtings, and probably " he belonged to the family of Valence, for they have " bin aunciently lordes of Abergavenny likewyſe."
Gough's Camden, art. Monmouthſhire.

† " Artificemque ſuo ducit ſub police vultum." Perſius, Sat. 5.

" Saxa paro, ſtructoque libens hæc carmina buſto
" Qualiacunque fero. Nos longè a rure paterno
" Dulcibus a campis, ubi lætas ſtrata lapillis
" Iſca lavat ſegetes, alia hinc in fata vocamur.
" Quod ſi forte velit Deus, ut volventibus annis
" Hæc aliquas repetat noſtri loca nominis hæres,
" Ite pii cives, oro, memoreſque meorum
" Dilectus initurum ædes agnoſcite, nato
" Gratantes reduci—Tuque O ſanctiſſima tellus,
" Oſſibus his proavûm et redivivo pulvere fœta
" Inſignem pietate pari, et virtutis amore,
" Cognatos inter gremio complectere manes."

" W. H. R. C. E. P."

ABERGAVENNY CHURCH

CHAPTER 20.

Excurſions to the Summits of the Sugar Loaf and Great Skyrrid.

HAVING received repeated accounts of the different and contraſted views from the tops of the Sugar Loaf and Skyrrid, I determined to viſit them on the ſame day. I departed at ſeven in the morning from Abergavenny, rode about a mile along the Hereford road, mounted the eaſtern ſide of the Derry, in the dry bed of a torrent, came to a heathy down, and gently aſcended to the bottom of the ridge, which below appears like a cone, and is called the Sugar Loaf.

The ſides of the mountain are covered with heath, whortle-berries, and moſs, to the height of a foot, which renders the aſcent ſo extremely eaſy, that a light carriage might be driven to the baſe of the cone, not more than one hundred paces from the ſummit. I diſmounted near a rock, which emerges from the ſide of the ridge, forming a natural wall, and reached the top without the ſmalleſt difficulty. This elevated point, which crowns the ſummit of the four hills, is an inſulated ridge, about a quarter of a mile in length, and two hundred yards in breadth, with broken crags ſtarting up amid the moſs and heath with which it is covered.

The view from this point is magnificent, extenſive and diverſified. It commands the counties of Radnor, Salop, Brecknock, Monmouth, Glamorgan, Hereford, Worceſter, Gloceſter, Somerſet, and Wilts. To the weſt extends the long and beautiful Vale of the Uſk, winding in the receſſes of the mountains, and expanding to the ſouth into the fertile plain, which is terminated by the Clytha hills. Above it towers the magnificent Blorenge, almoſt equal in height to the point on which I ſtood; and in the midſt riſes the undulating ſwell of the

Little Skyrrid, appearing like a gentle eminence feathered with wood. To the north a bleak, dreary, ſublime maſs of mountains, ſtretches in a circular range from the extremity of the Black mountains above Lanthony to the Table Rock near Crickhowel; the commencement of the great chain which extends from theſe confines of Monmouthſhire, acroſs North Wales, to the Iriſh Sea. To the eaſt I looked down on the broken crags of the Great Skyrrid, which ſtarts up in the midſt of a rich and cultivated region. Beyond, the Malvern hills, the Graig, the Garway, and the eminences above Monmouth, bound the horizon. Above, and on the ſide of Brecknockſhire, all was clear and bright; but below, and to the ſouth, there was much vapour and miſt, which obſcured the proſpect, and prevented my ſeeing the diſtant Severn, and the hills in Somerſetſhire and Gloceſterſhire.

This elevated point riſes 1852 feet perpendicular from the mouth of the Gavenny, and is ſeen from Bitcomb Hill, near Longleat, in the county of Wilts, and from the Stiper Stones in the county of Salop, near the borders of Montgomeryſhire.

During my continuance on the ſummit, I felt that extreme ſatisfaction which I always experience, when elevated on the higheſt point of the circumjacent country. The air is more pure, the body more active, and the mind more ſerene; lifted up above the dwellings of man, we diſcard all groveling and earthly paſſions; the thoughts aſſume a character of ſublimity, proportionate to the grandeur of the ſurrounding objects, and as the body approaches nearer to the ethereal regions, the ſoul imbibes a portion of their unalterable purity *.

Reluctantly quitting the ſummit, I walked down the ſide of the Derry, facing the precipitous crags of the dark Skyrrid, and in an hour entered the Hereford road, two miles from Abergavenny, where I arrived at half paſt eleven †.

After taking ſome refreſhment and repoſe, I departed at two for the ſummit of the Skyrrid, on horſeback, and accompanied with the ſame guide who had conducted me to the top of the Sugar Loaf. Having rode two miles along the road leading to White Caſtle, we attempted to aſcend towards the ſouth-weſtern part

* Rouſſeau.

† I would recommend travellers who viſit the top of the Sugar Loaf, to aſcend the Derry from the Hereford road, and to deſcend the ſide of the Rolben.

part of the mountain, which is diſtinguiſhed with three ſmall fiſſures. I ſoon diſcovered that the guide was unacquainted with the way, and on enquiring of a farmer, was informed that the uſual route led by Landewi Skyrrid; by his direction, however, we continued at the foot of the mountain, through fields of corn and paſture, and then proceeded along a narrow path, overſpread with high broom, which in many places quite covered my horſe. Forcing our way with ſome difficulty through this heathy wood, we rode over a moor, by the ſide of the ſtone wall and hedge which ſtretch at the baſe, reached the path leading from Landewi Skyrrid, and aſcended, on foot, the graſſy ſlope of the mountain.

The heat was ſo intenſe, the fatigue I had undergone in the day ſo conſiderable, and the effort I impatiently made to reach the ſummit ſo violent, that when I looked down from the narrow and deſolated ridge, the boundleſs expanſe around and beneath, which ſuddenly burſt upon my ſight, overcame me. I felt a mixed ſenſation of animation and laſſitude, horror and delight, ſuch as I ſcarcely ever before experienced even in the Alps of Switzerland; my ſpirits almoſt failed, even curioſity was ſuſpended, and I threw myſelf exhauſted on the ground. Theſe ſenſations increaſed during my continuance on the ſummit: I ſeveral times attempted to walk along the ridge, but my head became ſo giddy, as I looked down the precipitous ſides, and particularly towards the great fiſſure, that I could not remain ſtanding. I ſtrongly felt the force of Edgar's exclamation, upon the ſummit of Dover cliff, which is no more than a molehill in compariſon with this eminence:

——— "How fearful
"And dizzy 'tis to caſt one's eyes ſo low!"
——— "I'll look no more,
"Leſt my brain turn, and the deficient ſight,
"Topple down headlong."

I ſeemed only ſafe when extended on the ground, and was not therefore in a condition to examine and deſcribe the beauties of the view. However, I took out my pencil, and made a few haſty notes. The ridge of the Skyrrid ſeemed to be about a mile in length, extremely narrow, in general not more than thirty or forty feet broad, and in ſome places only ten or twelve; its craggy ſurface is

partly

partly covered with ſcant and ruſſet herbage, and exhibits only a ſtunted thorn, which heightens the drearineſs of its aſpect. After remaining half an hour on the top, incapable of making any further obſervations, I deſcended, and went round the eaſtern ſide of the mountain, where it terminates in an abrupt precipice near the large fiſſure.

I walked acroſs the meadows, along a gradual deſcent, through fine groves of oaks and Spaniſh cheſnuts, to Lanvihangel houſe, an old manſion belonging to the earl of Oxford. It was the ancient ſeat of the Arnold family, and was ſold in 1722 to auditor Harley, anceſtor of the preſent earl. It is now inhabited only by a farmer, and contains nothing but ſome old furniture, a few family pictures, and ſome good impreſſions of Hogarth's prints. The place is diſtinguiſhed by avenues of Scots firs, which are the largeſt and fineſt in England. From the grounds near the front of the houſe, the Skyrrid preſents itſelf with peculiar effect, the fiſſure ſeems like an enormous chaſm, ſeparating two mountains, whoſe impending and craggy ſummits vie in height and ruggedneſs.

It was near ſix o'clock, and I haſtened to join a party returning from the ruins of Lanthony Abbey. I partook of an elegant collation, provided by my friend Mr. Greene, which was ſpread on the banks of the Honddy: the wine, "Interiore notâ Falerni," was cooled in the limpid and murmuring ſtream; the evening was placid and ſerene, and I forgot the fatigues of the day, in convivial intercourſe and ſocial converſation.

On my return to Abergavenny, the moon ſhining in full ſplendour, gleamed on the craggy ridge of the Skyrrid, and tinged, with its ſilvery rays, the undulating and woody ſides of the Derry; forming a contraſt of beauty and ſublimity.

In a ſubſequent tour, I made a ſecond expedition to the top of the Skyrrid. I rode along the Roſs road, as far as Landewi Skyrrid, where there is an old gothic manſion, now a farm houſe; it formerly belonged to the family of Greville, was ſold by the late earl of Warwick to Henry Wilmot, eſq. ſecretary to the lord chancellor, and is now in the poſſeſſion of his ſon. From this place I followed a narrow ſtony bridle-way till I reached the extremity of the Skyrrid, and walked up the ſame graſſy path which I had aſcended in my firſt excurſion.

I attained

I attained the ſummit without making thoſe violent exertions, or experiencing the fatigue which I had before undergone, and admired the proſpect without the ſmalleſt ſenſation of uneaſineſs or laſſitude. I aſcended to the higheſt point of the mountain at its north-eaſtern extremity, where a ſmall circular cavity is formed near the verge of the precipice; it is ſuppoſed to be the ſite of a Roman catholic chapel, dedicated to St. Michael, from which the Skyrrid has derived one of its appellations of St. Michael's mount. I could obſerve no traces either of walls or foundations; the entrance, which is to the ſouth-weſt, is marked by two upright ſtones, two feet in height, on one of which are rudely carved ſeveral letters, amongſt which I could only diſtinguiſh "TURNER 1671." To this place many Roman catholics in the vicinity, are ſaid to repair annually on Michaelmas eve, and perform their devotions. The earth of this ſpot is likewiſe conſidered as ſacred, and was formerly carried away to cure diſeaſes, and to ſprinkle the coffins of thoſe who were interred; but whether this ſuperſtitious practice ſtill continues I was not able to aſcertain.

I ſeated myſelf on the brow of the cliff, overhanging the rich groves of Lanvihangel houſe, and ſurveyed at my leiſure the diverſified expanſe of country which ſtretched beneath and around. Although the ſummit of the Skyrrid is leſs elevated than that of the Sugar Loaf, yet its inſulated ſituation, abrupt declivity, and craggy fiſſures, produce an effect more ſublime and ſtriking than the ſmooth and undulating ſurface of the Sugar Loaf and Derry. On the north-eaſt and eaſt, an extenſive and fertile region ſtretches from the center of Herefordſhire to the Valley of the Uſk, which though a ſucceſſion of hill and dale, yet appears a vaſt plain, broken by a few ſolitary eminences, and bounded by diſtant hills gradually loſing themſelves in the horizon. The ſpires of Hereford cathedral gleam in the diſtant proſpect, the remains of Groſmont caſtle are faintly diſtinguiſhed under the Graig and Garway, and the majeſtic ruins of White Caſtle tower above the church of Landewi Skyrrid. To the ſouth, the gentle ſwell of the Little Skyrrid riſes like a hillock above the town of Abergavenny, the feathered hills of Clytha, tufted with the Coed y Bunedd, and backed with the Pencamawr, beyond which appears the æſtuary of the Severn,

Severn, under the cultivated eminences of Glocesterſhire and Somerſetſhire. To the ſouth-weſt, the eye catches a glimpſe of the Uſk, purſuing through copſes and meads its ſerpentine courſe, under a continued chain of wooded acclivities. To the weſt and north-weſt I looked down on a grand and dreary maſs of mountains, extending from Abergavenny beyond the frontiers of Herefordſhire, and domineered by the elegant cone of the Sugar Loaf. The Black mountains form the northern extremity of this chain, and are interſected by the ſequeſtered valley of the Honddy. Beneath yawned the abyſs of the ſtupendous fiſſure, which appears to have been cauſed by ſome violent convulſion of nature, and according to the legends of ſuperſtition, was rent aſunder by the earthquake, at the crucifixion of our Saviour: hence it is alſo denominated the Holy mountain, by which name it is chiefly diſtinguiſhed among the natives.

After contemplating the chaſm above, I endeavoured to enter it down the weſtern ſide of the mountain; but finding the declivity too precipitous, remounted the ridge, and deſcended the gentler ſlope to the eaſt. Proceeding along its baſe, I turned round its north-eaſtern extremity, which terminates in an abrupt and tremendous precipice, and paſſing over fragments of rock, entered the fiſſure, on the north-weſtern ſide of the mountain. This chaſm is not leſs than three hundred feet in breadth; the rugged ſide of the Skyrrid riſes perpendicular as a wall, to an amazing height:

——— " the ſhrill gorged lark ſo far
" Cannot be ſeen or heard."

The oppoſite crag is equally perpendicular, though far leſs elevated. At ſome diſtance it appears like an enormous fragment, ſeparated from the mountain. Its ſhape, and the ſtrata of the rock, reſemble that part of the Skyrrid from which it ſeems to have been detached; but a nearer view convinced me that it never could have fallen from the ſummit. Many ſimilar fiſſures I obſerved in the Alps, and they are common in mountainous regions. The frequent ſprings, oozing through the interſtices of the rocks, undermine the foundation, and the vaſt maſſes, thus deprived of ſupport, either ſink, or are ſeparated from each other, till by degrees great chaſms are formed, and the mountain ſeems

to have been rent aſunder. The weſtern ſide of the ſmaller crag, which bounds the fiſſure, is wholly overhung with underwood, and forms a ſingular contraſt with the bare and rugged precipice of the parent mountain.

I quitted this intereſting mountain with regret, at the approach of evening, and as I rode ſlowly through the narrow vale, which ſeparates the Skyrrid from the Pen y Vale hills; I looked up to the "Dread ſummit of the craggy bourn" on which I had experienced ſuch various ſenſations:

"Skirrid! remembrance thy loved ſcene renews;
"Fancy yet lingering on thy ſhaggy brow,
"Beholds around the lengthened landſcape glow;
"Which charmed, when late the day-beam's parting hues
"Purpled the diſtant cliff." Sotheby's Poems, p. 57.

CHAPTER 21.

Twy Dee.—Werndee.—Ancient Seat of the Herbert Family.—Landeilo Bertholly.—Ancient Grant.—Excurſion to the Derry, Rolben, and Lanwenarth Hills.—View from the Summit of the Little Skyrrid.

THE neighbourhood of Abergavenny abounds with delightful ſituations, and one of the moſt delightful is Twy Dee, the ſeat of William Dinwoody, eſq. which ſtands at the diſtance of a mile from the town, to the ſouth of the road leading to Roſs. The houſe and grounds occupy the brow and ſides of a gentle riſe, which gradually ſlopes to the banks of the Uſk; part of Abergavenny, ſurmounted by the tower of the church, appears ſweeping round the foot of the Derry; the ſemicircle of mountains, from the Great Skyrrid to the Blorenge, contraſted in their height, ſhape, and colour, ſwell from the vale, and are peculiarly diſcriminated.

This ſpot exhibits the ſtriking characteriſtics of a Monmouthſhire view, where the extremes of wildneſs and fertility are, like the colours of a picture, blended into each other. The effect is different, but equally pleaſing in ſpring and autumn; in ſpring, the intermixture of corn, paſture, and wood, forms a mantle of verdure, which gradually becomes leſs vivid, until it harmoniſes with the ruſſet tops of the mountains; in autumn the different hues are ſtrongly oppoſed, and form a more variegated, though leſs harmonious picture.

In this agreeable retreat, I had the pleaſure of paſſing ſeveral days. Mr. Dinwoody, to whom I carried a letter from Mr. Gough, received me with great

W.B.direx.

WERNDEE

J. Tudor del.

W.B.direx.

PERTHIR

W.B.direx.

TREOWEN

J. Tudor del.

W.B.direx.

CARLUCH

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frankneſs and cordiality, and favoured me with much information, particularly on the trade and preſent ſtate of Abergavenny. He likewiſe obligingly accompanied me in ſeveral excurſions, in which I derived great advantage from his local knowledge.

We walked to Werndee, or as it is called in ancient deeds, Gwaryndee, the ſeat of the anceſtors of the Herberts, and diſtinguiſhed as the cradle of the Herbert family in Monmouthſhire, which is ſituated on the left of the high road leading from Abergavenny to Roſs. Great difference of opinion ſubſiſts concerning the real anceſtor of the Herberts, and the origin of the name. In an old pedigree, poſſeſſed by Mr Jones of Clytha, which is printed in the Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, the original anceſtor is Henry (or, as Edmonſon calls him, Herbert) Fitz Herbert, chamberlain of king Henry the firſt, huſband of Lucy, daughter and coheir of Robert Corbet, of Alceſter caſtle, in the county of Warwick. But the pedigree formed by the Welſh genealogiſts, at the order of Edward the fourth, which is ſtill preſerved in the heralds' office, derives the family from Herbert Fitz Roy, natural ſon of Henry the firſt. This difference of opinion may be reconciled, as the above-mentioned Lucy Corbet was concubine to the king, and wife of the lord chamberlain.

The derivation of Herbert has given riſe to much controverſy. Some etymologiſts have aſſerted that Gwillim ap Jenkin, of Gwaryndee, was called from his beauty, Hîr-pert *; but the name of Herbert was common in the family long before Gwillim ap Jenkin, and was often uſed as a mark of diſtinction by the different branches; thus his father, Jenkin ap Adam, was occaſionally called John Herbert. Several of his anceſtors had the name of Herbert, which appears to have been common in the different provinces of France before the conqueſt; and not leſs than five counts of Vermandois and Meaux †, from whom the lord chamberlain was lineally deſcended, are diſtinguiſhed by that appellation. Hence it appears, that Herbert was not a Welſh name, but introduced by the Normans ſoon after the conqueſt.

* Hîr ſignifies *tall*, and pert, pronounced bert, *handſome*, but according to others *ſmart* or *pretty*.

† See the note in the next page.

According to the pedigree of the family, preſerved at the heralds' office, Adam Fitz Herbert, lord of Lanllowel, lineal deſcendant from Herbert, lord chamberlain to king Henry the firſt, eſpouſed Chriſtian, daughter of Gwaryndee, or the Black, lord of Landeilo; his ſecond ſon, Jenkin ap Adam, the ſame who is called John Herbert, is firſt ſtyled lord of Gwaryndee; his ſon Gwillim had four ſons, from whom four different branches of the Herberts are deſcended. From the eldeſt, Jenkin ap Gwillim, are derived the Progers, who occupied this ancient ſeat; the houſe and eſtate of Werndee remained in the direct line, till the income gradually diminiſhed to £.200 a year.

The laſt male of this line was William Proger, who died twenty years ago, leaving an only daughter, now a nun; he ſold the eſtate, reſerving the uſufruct during his life, to Mr. Lee, father of Mrs. Jones of Lanarth, who is now the proprietor; it is inhabited by a tenant, and is converted into a modern houſe. Scarcely any remains of the ancient manſion exiſt, except an old oak ſtaircaſe,

PIPIN, firſt Count of Vermandois, third deſcendant from Charlemagne.

Herbert Count de Vermandois, &c.

Herbert Count de Vermandois, &c.

Albert Count de Vermandois. — Herbert Count de Meaux.

Herbert Count de Vermandois.

Otho Count de Vermandois.

Herbert Count de Vermandois. — Peter.

Herbert, Chamberlain to William Rufus.

Henry Fitz Herbert, Chamberlain to Henry I. = Lucy Julian or Sibyll, dr. of Robert Corbet of Alencester.

Herbert Fitz Herbert, Chamberlain to King Stephen.

Edmonſon's Baronagium Genealogicum, p. 263.

ſtaircaſe, and ſome walls and chimneys at the back part of the houſe; its ſituation is low, in the midſt of a rich plain, near the ſouth-weſtern extremity of the Great Skyrrid.

The houſe, which has been lately repaired, for the uſe of the tenant, was in ſuch a ſtate of dilapidation, that the father of the laſt proprietor, Mr. Proger, was in danger of periſhing under the ruins of the ancient manſion, which he venerated even in decay. As we examined the houſe, Mr. Dinwoody related an anecdote of this Mr. Proger*, which exhibits his pride of anceſtry in a ſtriking point of view. A ſtranger, whom he accidentally met at the foot of the Skyrrid, made various enquiries reſpecting the country, the proſpects, and the neighbouring houſes, and among others, aſked "Whoſe is this antique manſion before us?" "That, Sir, is Werndee, a very ancient houſe; for *out* of it *came* the earls of Pembroke, of the firſt line, and the earls of Pembroke of the ſecond line; the lords Herbert of Cherbury, the Herberts of Coldbrook, Rumney, Caerdiff, and York; the Morgans of Acton; the earl of Hunſdon; the Jones's of Treowen and Lanarth, and all the Powells. *Out* of this houſe alſo, by the female line, *came* the dukes of Beaufort."—"And pray, Sir, who lives there now?" "I do, Sir," "Then pardon me, and accept a piece of advice: *Come out* of it yourſelf, or 'twill tumble and cruſh you."

Being deſirous of viſiting the four hills, which form the baſe of the Sugar Loaf, I rode from Twy Dee, in company with Mr. Dinwoody. We proceeded through a hollow ſtony road, which leads to Landeilo Bertholly, in which pariſh Twy Dee is ſituated, for the purpoſe of inſpecting a curious deed, preſerved in the church cheſt, under three locks. It is a grant of paſturage, and other liberties, in the foreſt of Moyl, from Jaſper, duke of Bedford, as lord of Abergavenny, to the "pariſhioners, dwellers and inhabitants within the borders and limits of Lantillio "Pertholey, Chapel and Lanwenarth citra Uſk." The original grant is in Latin, with the ſeal appended, and is accompanied with a tranſlation made in 1748, ſigned by the miniſter and principal landholders, which is inſerted in the Appendix.

* For another inſtance of his family pride, ſee the chapter on Perthir.

Appendix. The church, an ancient building, in the early ſtyle of gothic architecture, ſtands on the eaſtern bank of the Gavenny, from which ſituation the pariſh, as I have before obſerved, is divided into citra and ultra. In the vale to the north of the church are two fulling mills, and dye houſes, the only remains of that manufactory of woollen cloth which formerly flouriſhed at Abergavenny.

Continuing our ride from Landeilo, we paſſed an ancient manſion, called the White Houſe, the reſidence of the Floyers, entered the Hereford road, and aſcending the Derry, croſſed the Kibby, a mountain ſtream, which flows through the dingle ſeparating the Derry and the Rolben, mounted the ſides of the Rolben, and came to another dingle, which lies between the Rolben and Graig Lanwenarth. The precipitous ſides of theſe dingles are mantled with thickets of oak, and watered by torrents, which heighten the effect of the romantic ſcenery, by their inceſſant roar and gliſtening foam. We rode up the bed of this ſtream, and then aſcended the ſides of the Graig Lanwenarth, thickly covered with underwood, until we reached the foot of the Sugar Loaf.

We then rode along the heathy margin which forms the brow of the Rolben, and deſcending from our horſes, walked down its ſteep ſide, and paſſed through a trench and bank, ſtill called the park wall, which runs along the tops of the Derry and Rolben, and encloſes a circumference of not leſs than four or five miles; formerly a park belonging to the priory. Mr. Dinwoody pointed out to me the lodge, now a farm houſe, pleaſantly ſituated in the midſt of a wood, between the Derry and the Rolben, and juſt below the ſource of the Kibby. We continued our deſcent to a place called Port y Park, or Park Gate, in the midſt of wild foreſt ſcenery, then turned to the eaſt, croſſed the Kibby, and went down the ſides of the Derry to the Hill Houſe, a delightful place, belonging to Mr. Morgan, overlooking Abergavenny and the vale of the Uſk, with the Little Skyrrid, ſwelling in the back ground. In our progreſs we paſſed the reſervoir, ſupplied by the water of the Kibby for the uſe of the town; and returned through Abergavenny to Twy Dee.

I was much pleaſed with this excurſion; the hills abound with pictureſque ſcenes,

ſcenes, and command extenſive proſpects. At one time, enveloped in wood, we ſaw nothing but ſurrounding trees, and

"The wild brook babbling down the mountain's ſide;"

at another, burſt upon proſpects equally grand, extenſive, and diverſified.

On the morning in which I took my departure from the hoſpitable manſion of Twy Dee, Mr. Dinwoody accompanied me to the ſummit of the Little Skyrrid. The view from the Sugar Loaf and the Great Skyrrid is more ſublime and extenſive; but this proſpect is the moſt delightful and elegant in Monmouthſhire: it is ſufficiently diſtant to produce the effect of landſcape; yet not ſo extenſive as to render the objects indiſtinct. Beneath, the vale ſtretches from Crickhowel to the Clytha hills, watered by the Uſk, meandring through rich tracts of corn, paſture, and wood, occaſionally loſt in the midſt of thickets, and again burſting into view. Above the right bank of this beautiful river, extend the chain of wooded eminences, from the extremity of the Blorenge to the rich groves of Pont y Pool park; from the left ſweeps the fertile diſtrict in which the manſions of Clytha, Lanarth, and Lanſanfraed are ſituated. The diſtant and cultivated parts of Herefordſhire preſent themſelves on each ſide of the majeſtic and independent Skyrrid. To the weſt of the Skyrrid, riſes an enormous maſs of mountains; among which are moſt conſpicuous the long line of the Black mountains, the ruſſet top of the Brynaro, the towering point of the Sugar Loaf, and the magnificent ſwell of the Blorenge. The four undulating eminences which ſupport the Sugar Loaf are peculiarly diſcriminated, and Abergavenny, ſeated at their feet, is ſeen to the greateſt advantage. As we caught a bird's eye view of the town, with its white houſes illuminated by the rays of a meridian ſun, and relieved by the ſurrounding verdure, it appeared like the picture of a camera obſcura. Turning our eyes to the ſouth, we looked down upon Coldbrook houſe, which ſtands at the foot of the hill, and emboſomed in wood, exhibits the appearance of an elegant and placid retirement. Part of this eminence belongs to lord Abergavenny, and part to Mr. Hanbury Williams, who has a leaſe of the remainder. He has made ſome pleaſant rides around the ſides

and

and ſummit, which are delightful from the contraſt of the ſurrounding ſcenery; varying from plain to mountain, and from fertility to wildneſs.

From this point Mr. Dinwoody turned my attention to the regular ſeries of fortreſſes, which ſtretch diagonally through the midland parts of the county, from the confines of Herefordſhire to the Severn, and which he juſtly ſuppoſes were erected not only to keep the natives in ſubjection, but as a line of fortification to prevent the incurſions of the neighbouring mountaineers, who always entertained the greateſt animoſity againſt the inhabitants of the lowlands, and whom they conſidered as the vaſſals of their Saxon invaders*.

* See the introductory chapter on the caſtles of Monmouthſhire.

HISTORICAL TOUR

IN

MONMOUTHSHIRE;

ILLUSTRATED WITH

VIEWS BY SIR R. C. HOARE, BART.

A NEW MAP OF THE COUNTY,

AND

OTHER ENGRAVINGS:

BY

WILLIAM COXE, A.M. F.R.S. F.A.S.

RECTOR OF BEMERTON AND STOURTON.

PART THE SECOND.

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CONTENTS.

PART THE SECOND.

CHAPTER 22. Excurſion to Lanthony Abbey.—Situation and Ruins.—Hiſtory *page* 209

Chap. 93. Excurſions into the Mountains in the Vicinity of Lanvihangel.—Oldcaſtle.—Character of Lord Cobham.—Encampment above Trewyn Houſe.—Altyrynys.—Campſton Hill and Houſe.—Langua.—Summit of the Gaer.—Situations and Forms of the adjacent Mountains.—Vale of Langruny.—Junction of the Three Counties.—Coed y Gruny.—Maſſacre of Richard Earl of Clare — — — — — 220

Chap. 24. Excurſion from Abergavenny to Blaenavon.—Riſe and Progreſs of the Iron Works.—Route through the Valley of Avon Lwyd to Pont y Pool — — 227

Chap. 25. Pont y Pool.—Japan Manufacture.—Anecdotes of the Hanbury Family.—Pont y Pool Park and Houſe.—Trevethin Church — — — — 233

Chap. 26. Excurſions from Pont y Pool into the Weſtern Parts of Monmouthſhire.—Vallies of the Great and Little Ebwy.—Aberyſtwith.—Nant y glo.—Lanhiddel.—Return to Pont y Pool — — — — — — — 245

Chap. 27. Excurſion from Pont y Pool to Crumlin Bridge and Riſca.—Junction of the Great and Little Ebwy.—Valley of the Ebwy.—Newbridge.—Abercarn.—Riſca.—Excurſion from Riſca to Penllwyn.—Bydwellty.—Croſs Pen Main — — 255

Chap. 28. Road from Pont y Pool to Abergavenny.—Mamhilad.—Lanover.—Church.—Ancient Families of Cecil and Rumſey.—Excurſions to Coed y Prior and Goytre - 264

Chap. 29. Coldbrook Houſe.—Proprietors.—Anecdotes of Sir Charles Hanbury Williams — — — — — — — — 270

Chap. 30. Upper and Lower Roads from Abergavenny to Monmouth.—Landeilo Creſſency.—Family of Lewis.—Portraits and Anecdotes of Thomas and James Howell.—Veſtiges of the Court Houſe, the Reſidence of Sir David Gam.—Remains of the Abbey of Grace Dieu — — — — — — — 283

CONTENTS.

Chap. 31. Monmouth.—Charter.—Population.—Monmouth Caps.—Free School.—Church of St. Mary.—Ancient Priory.—Study of Geoffrey of Monmouth.—Obſervations on his Hiſtory.—Church of St. Thomas.—Chippenham Meadow.—Kymin.—View from the Pavilion — — — — — — — *page* 295

Chap. 32. Monmouth, ancient Bleſtium.—A Saxon Fortreſs.—Ruins of the Caſtle.—Hiſtory and Proprietors.—Anecdotes of Henry the Fifth before his Acceſſion — 302

Chap. 33. Branches of the Herbert Family.—Powells of Perthîr.—Anecdote of Mr. Proger.—Troy Houſe.—Collection of Portraits.—Treowen.—Wonaſtow Houſe.—Families of Herbert and Milborne.—Excurſion to Trelech.—Road from Chepſtow to Monmouth 314

Chap. 34. White Caſtle.—Scenfreth.—Newcaſtle.—Remarkable Oak.—The Graig.—Caſtle of Groſmont.—John of Kent — — — — — 326

Chap. 35. Excurſion down the Wy.—Characteriſtic Features of the River.—Navigation from Roſs to Monmouth.—Goodrich Caſtle.—Courtfield.—Welſh Bicknor Church.—Sepulchral Effigies of the ſuppoſed Counteſs of Saliſbury.—Proprietors of Welſh Bicknor.—Family of Vaughan.—Coldwell Rocks.—New Weir.—Monmouth — — 340

Chap. 36. Navigation of the Wy.—From Monmouth to Tintern.—Ruins of the Abbey Church.—From Tintern to Chepſtow — — — — — 350

Chap. 37. Chepſtow.—Situation.—Height of the Tide.—Bridge.—Trade.—Ancient Priory.—Church.—Priory of St. Kynemark.—Remarkable Well.—Situation of the old Bridge 357

Chap. 38. Caſtle of Chepſtow or Striguil.—Deſcription.—Hiſtory and Proprietors - - 365

Chap. 39. Harry Marten's Tower.—Apartment in which he was confined.—Anecdotes of his Life — — — — — — — 378

Chap. 40. Piercefield.—Proprietors.—Anecdotes of Valentine Morris.—Houſe.—Grounds.—Wynd Cliff — — — — — — — 392

APPENDIX.

No. 1. Letter from Mr. Owen, Author of the Welſh and Engliſh Dictionary; containing Remarks on the Structure of the Welſh Language, and on the Characteriſtics of the Gwentian Dialect; accompanied with two Odes — — — 405

No. 2. A Paper on the ancient Limits of MORGANNOC, or SILURIA; extracted from the MYVIRIAN ARCHÆOLOGY OF WALES, vol. 2. — — — 411

No. 3. Account of the Encampments of Coed y Caerau, Kemeys Folly, Caerlicyn, Gaer Vawr, and Cwrt y Gaer. Addition to Chapter 5 — — — 412

No. 4. Abſtract of the Charter of Newport in the County of Monmouth; (referred to in p. 46.) Amount of Tonnage on the Monmouthſhire Canal, for One Year, commencing September 9, 1798 — — — — — — — 413

No. 5. Conſtitution of the Court of Sewers, in the Level of Wentloog; referred to Chapter 9. Communicated by the Rev. Mr. Evans — — — 416

No. 6. Addition to Chapter 10, on Caerleon; referred to in p. 80.—Etymology of Caerleon, in a Note from Mr. Owen — — — — — 417

No. 7.

CONTENTS.

No. 7. Diſſertation on the Inſcription engraven on a Braſs Plate in the Church of Uſk, (referred to in page 133.) containing Explanations by Dr. Wooton, the Rev. Mr. Evans, Vicar of St. Woolos, and a Letter on the ſame Subject from Mr. Owen *page* 418

No. 8. A true Coppie of an antient memorable Treatiſe of Record touchinge the Progenie & Deſcent of the honourable Name and Family of the Herberts, by Commiſſion from E. 4. Anº Dom. 1460; referred to in page 141 — — — — 421

No. 9. Remarks on the Herbert Genealogy. Addition to Chapter 16, p. 153 — 422

No. 10. Inſcription in the Chancel of Lanarth Church; referred to in page 158 - 423

No. 11. Omiſſion in Chapter 17, on the Population of Abergavenny — 425

No. 12. Addition to Chapter 19, relative to the Tomb of one of the Haſtings Family in Abergavenny Church. — — — — — — *ibid.*

No. 13. Tranſlation of a Grant in the Church Cheſt of Lantilio, or Landeilo Bertholly, Monmouthſhire; referred to in p. 205 — — — — — 426

No. 14. Additions to Chapter 30.—Fac-ſimile of the Seal of the Abbey of Grace Dieu, mentioned in p. 289.—Account of Caeluch — — — — 427

No. 15. Addition to Chapter 31, on Monmouth — — — — *ibid.*

No. 16. Papers relative to the Trade of Chepſtow, referred to in p. 360. — 428

No. 17. Omiſſion in Chapter 40, concerning the Genealogy and Arms of the Wood Family, p. 397 — — — — — — — 431

A Liſt of the Principal Books occaſionally conſulted in the Courſe of this Publication 432

Antiquities recently diſcovered at Caerleon — — — — 433

Additions to the Account of John of Kent — — — — — 433*

DIRECTIONS FOR THE PLATES.

As ſome of the Plates contain two or more Subjects, deſcribed in different Parts of the Work, the Chapters in which each of thoſe Subjects are reſpectively mentioned, are ſpecified in this Liſt. A few Miſtakes made by the Engraver in ſome of the Names, are alſo here corrected.

PART THE SECOND.

I. VIEWS.

25. RUINS of Lanthony Abbey - - - - - - - - - *to face page* 211.

26. North View of Lanthony Abbey - - - - - - - - - - - - 212.

27. South View of Lanthony Abbey - - - - - - - - - - - - 214.

28. Weſt View of Lanthony Abbey - - - - - - - - - - - - 216.

29. Eaſt View of Lanthony Abbey - - - - - - - - - - - - 218.

30. Oldcaſtle, chap. 23. - - - - - - - - - - - - } - - - - - 221.
Covered Bridge at Blaenavon, chap. 24. - - - - - }

31. Iron Works at Blaenavon - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 228.

32. View of the Mountains from Mr. Waddington's Grounds - - - - 265.

33. View of Monmouth - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 291.

34. Remains of the Priory at Monmouth, and - - - - - } - - - - - 295.
Geoffrey of Monmouth's Study - - - - - - - - }

35. Church of St. Thomas, and Monnow Bridge - - - - - - - - 299.

36. Inſide of St. Thomas's Church - - - - - - - - - - - - 299.

37. View

37. View of the Hills in the environs of Monmouth, chap. 31.
Elevations of the Door of St. Thomas's Church and Chancel, chap. 31. and
Inside View of Monmouth Caſtle, chap. 32. — to face page 300.

38. View of Monmouth Caſtle, Church, &c. chap. 32.
Bridge over the Wy at Monmouth, chap. 31. — 302.

39. Trelech Church
Druidical Stones — 323.

40. View of White Caſtle — 328.

41. Bridge and Caſtle of Scenfreth — 330.

42. Entrance to Groſmont Caſtle
Village and Caſtle of Scenfreth — 332.

43. Groſmont Church
Scenfreth Church — 335.

44. Groſmont Caſtle — 336.

45. Outſide View of Tintern Abbey — 351.

46. Inſide of Tintern Abbey, Weſt View — 352.

47. Inſide of Tintern Abbey, Eaſt View — 354.

48. Bridge and Caſtle at Chepſtow — 358.

49. Elevation of Chepſtow Bridge
Pier and Platform — 360.

50. Chepſtow Church, Outſide View
Elevation of the South ſide of the Nave — 362.

51. Weſtern Entrance of Chepſtow Church — 364.

52. Weſt View of Chepſtow Caſtle
Entrance to Chepſtow Caſtle — 370

53. South View of Chepſtow Caſtle — 372.

54. Outſide View of Harry Marten's Tower, chap. 38.
Inſide View, chap. 39. — 378.

55. View of Piercefield Houſe and Grounds — 397.

II. PORTRAITS,

II. PORTRAITS.

9. John of Kent - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - *to face page* 338.

10. Monumental Effigies in the Church of Welſh Bicknor - - - - - 344.

11. Henry Martin (Marten) chap. 1, and 39. - - - - - - - - - - 381.

III. PLANS OF TOWNS.

6. Plan of Monmouth - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 292.

7. Plan of Chepſtow - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 357.

IV. GROUND PLANS OF ANCIENT CASTLES AND ENCAMPMENTS.

10. Ground Plans of Lanthony Abbey, chap. 22. and Tintern Abbey, chap. 36. - - - - - - - - - - - - 209.

11. Ground Plans of Scenfreth - - - - - - - - - - Groſmont, and - - - - - - - - - - - - - - White Caſtles, chap 34. - - - - - - - - - - - 327.

12. Plan of Chepſtow Caſtle - - - - - - - - - - - Fig. 1, and 2. North and South Wall of the Chapel - Fig. 3. Saxon Doorway - - - - - - - - - - 368.

13. Encampment in Piercefield Grounds - - - - - Piercewood - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Gaer Hill, and - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Hardwick, chap. 38. - - - - - - - - - - - 376.

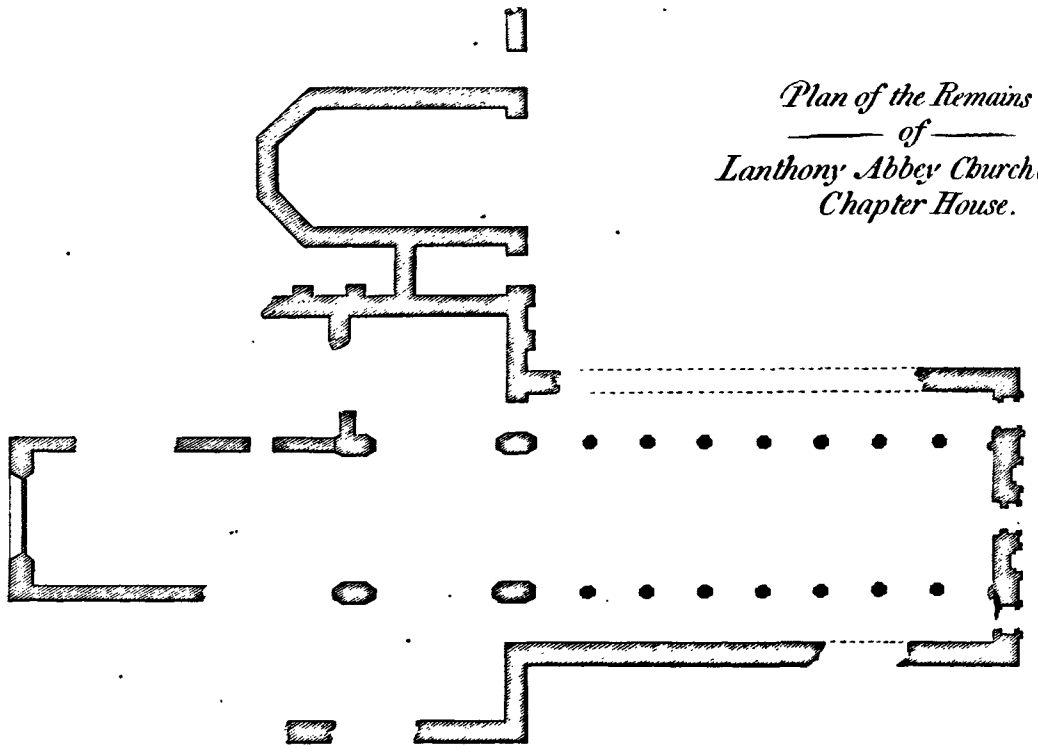
14. Plan of Piercefield Grounds - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 399.

15. Encampments of Cwrt y Gaer, near Wolves' Newton Portcaſſeg, and - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Gaer Vawr, Appendix, No. 3. - - - - - - - - - 412.

16. Encampments of Coed y Caerau - - - - - - - - Kemeys Folly, and - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Caerlicyn, Appendix, No. 3. - - - - - - - - - 412.

Fac Simile of the Inſcription in the Church of Uſk - - - - - - 418.

Plan of the Remains
— of —
Lanthony Abbey Church and
Chapter House.



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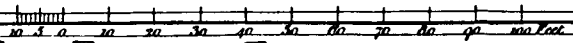
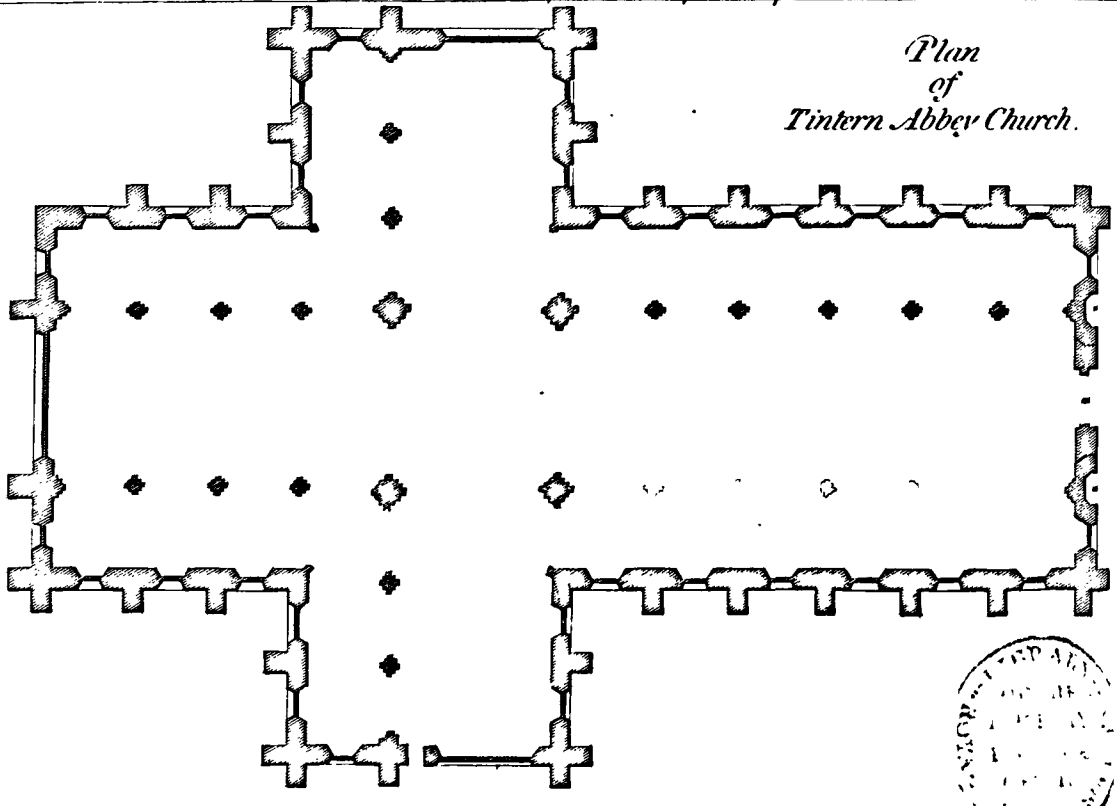


Plan
of
Tintern Abbey Church.



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CHAPTER 22.

Excurſion to Lanthony Abbey.—Situation and Ruins.—Hiſtory.

MY friend Mr. Wyndham was the firſt modern touriſt, who turned the attention of the traveller to the ruins of Lanthony abbey; his animated though brief deſcription excited my curioſity, and in the courſe of my ſucceſſive journies, I paid ſeveral viſits to the Vale of Ewias, in which theſe remains are ſituated, and received each time new impreſſions of delight.

The acceſs to the Vale of Ewias though unſafe for carriages, is not difficult on horſeback, and the latter part of the way is extremely intereſting to pedeſtrian travellers; pleaſant walks lead through the fields, above the precipitous banks of the Honddy, and preſent a conſtant ſucceſſion of romantic ſcenery, which is concealed from thoſe who traverſe the hollow roads in carriages or on horſeback. The uſual route from Abergavenny to Lanthony, paſſes along the Hereford road, on the eaſtern ſide of the Derry and Brynaro, to Lanvihangel Crickhornel; from whence it proceeds towards the Honddy, and inſtead of croſſing that ſtream, continues on the weſtern bank, through Lower and Upper Stanton. A ſhorter but more rugged way leads by a withered elm, near the four mile ſtone, and turning round the northern ſide of the Brynaro, joins the former road at Lower Stanton.

Having bruiſed my foot in an expedition to the mountains, I made my firſt excurſion in a poſt chaiſe, in company with the ſon of my friend ſir Richard Hoare. We turned by the ſcathed elm, into a narrow and hollow road, which we traverſed with extreme difficulty, and paſſed the hamlets of Lower and Upper Stanton. After catching a tranſient view of the Honddy, winding through a deep

glen, at the foot of hills overſpread with wood and ſprinkled with white cottages, we proceeded along a hollow way, which deepened as we advanced, and was ſcarcely broad enough to admit the carriage. In this road, which with more propriety might be termed a ditch, we heard the roar of the torrent beneath, but ſeldom enjoyed a view of the circumjacent ſcenery. We paſſed under a bridge, thrown acroſs the chaſm, to preſerve the communication between the fields on each ſide; this bridge was framed of the trunks of trees, and ſecured with ſide rails, to prevent the tottering paſſenger from falling into the abyſs beneath. It brought to my recollection ſeveral bridges of a ſimilar conſtruction, which I had obſerved in Norway, and which are likewiſe occaſionally uſed as aqueducts, for the purpoſes of irrigation. Emerging from this gloomy way, we were ſtruck with the romantic village of Cwmyoy, on the oppoſite bank of the Honddy, hanging on the ſides of abrupt cliffs, under a perpendicular rock broken into enormous fiſſures. We continued for ſome way between the torrent and the Gaer, and again plunged into a hollow road where we were incloſed, and ſaw nothing but the overhanging hedge-rows.

I would not recommend timid perſons to paſs this way in a carriage, for in the whole courſe of my travels, I ſeldom met with one more inconvenient and unſafe. Excepting in very few places, there is not room for a ſingle horſe to paſs by a chaiſe; and ſhould two carriages meet, neither could proceed, until one was drawn backwards to a conſiderable diſtance. The ſoil is boggy in wet, and rough in dry weather; the ruts worn by the ſmall Welſh cars are extremely deep, and oftentimes we were prevented from being overturned only by the narrowneſs of the road, and the ſteepneſs of the ſides, which would not allow the carriage to fall obliquely.

Having at length reached the Vale of Ewias, we deſcended from our carriage, and croſſing the Honddy, approached the ruins, which occupy a ſolitary ſpot in the wild receſſes of the Black mountains.

The abbey was built like a cathedral, in the ſhape of a Roman croſs, and though of ſmall dimenſions, is well proportioned. The length from the weſtern door to the eaſtern extremity is 212 feet, and the breadth, including the two

aiſles,

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne sculp.t

LLANTHONY ABBEY.

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aiſles, 50; the length of the tranſept from north to ſouth 100. It was conſtructed ſoon after the introduction of gothic architecture, and before the diſuſe of the Norman, and is a regular compoſition of both ſtyles. The whole roof, excepting a ſmall fragment in the north aiſle, is fallen down, and the building is extremely dilapidated. The nave alone exhibits a complete ſpecimen of the original plan, and is ſeparated on each ſide from the two aiſles, by eight pointed arches, reſting on piers of the ſimpleſt conſtruction, which are divided from an upper tier of Norman arches by a ſtrait band or faſcia. From the ſmall fragment in the northern aiſle, the roof ſeems to have been vaulted and engroined, and the ſpringing columns, by which it was ſupported, are ſtill viſible on the walls.

Four bold pointed arches in the center of the church ſupported a ſquare tower, two ſides of which only remain. The ornamented arch in the caſtern window, which appears in the engraving in Mr. Wyndham's tour, and in that publiſhed by Hearne *, is now fallen. The only veſtiges of the choir are a part of the ſouth wall, with a Norman door that led into a ſide aiſle, and the eaſt end of the north wall; a bold Norman arch, leading from the tranſept into the ſouthern aiſle of the choir, ſtill exiſts, and is repreſented in the eaſt view. The walls of the ſouthern aiſle are wholly dilapidated, and the ſide view of the two ranges of gothic arches, ſtretching along the nave, is ſingularly pictureſque; the outſide wall of the north aiſle is entire, excepting a ſmall portion of the weſtern extremity; the windows of this part are wholly Norman, and make a grand appearance. In a word, the weſtern ſide is the moſt elegant; the northern the moſt entire; the ſouthern the moſt pictureſque, and the caſtern the moſt magnificent.

To the ſouth of the tranſept is a neat little gothic chapel, with an engroined roof, in entire preſervation: it meaſures 22 feet in length, 10 feet and a half in breadth, and 15 in height. To the ſouth of this chapel are the remains of an oblong room, which was probably the chapter houſe; beyond is a doorway, ſimilar to that of the chapel, communicating with ſome apartments now dilapidated.

Remains of ancient buildings may ſtill be traced in the vicinity; in a barn,

* See Hearne's and Byrne's Antiquities.

to the weſt of the ruins, is a fine arch, which is ſuppoſed to have formed the grand entrance into the abbey. A ſubterraneous paſſage, faced with hewn ſtone, about 4½ feet high, has been diſcovered near this place, which according to the tradition of the natives, leads under the mountains to Oldcaſtle; but probably was nothing more than a branch of the common ſewer.

While ſir Richard Hoare, whom we joined at the ſpot, was employed in taking the ſketches, which have enabled me to preſent the annexed engravings to the public, I amuſed myſelf in contemplating the ruins in every point of view, and admiring the ſcenery of this ſequeſtered but pleaſing valley.

Theſe beautiful remains are haſtening to decay, and the preſent generation may perhaps witneſs their deſtruction. Mr. Wyndham has given in his tour, an accurate perſpective of the internal architecture, and Mr. Hearne has publiſhed an elegant engraving of the north-eaſt view. To preſerve the external appearance of the building from that oblivion, which will accompany its decay, engravings of the four principal aſpects are annexed, with a general view of the ruins, and their picturesque ſituation. They preſent a different appearance from all thoſe which I viſited in Monmouthſhire; they are wholly free from ivy, and the few ſhrubs which ſtart from the crevices, and fringe the walls, do not conceal any part of the architecture. The yellow tints, which age has imparted to the grey ſtone, produce a pleaſing and mellow effect; the breadth and maſſive remains of the dilapidated tower, are relieved in every point of view by the mountains in the back ground, and the general character of the whole is majeſtic ſimplicity.

Theſe ruins derive alſo a peculiar beauty from their ſituation in the deep vale of Ewias, which unites drearineſs and fertility, and is well adapted to monaſtic ſolitude. The vale itſelf is fertile in corn and paſture, occaſionally tufted with trees, and enlivened by the tranſparent and murmuring Honddy; it is wholly encircled by an amphitheatre of bleak and lofty mountains, which ſeem to exclude all intercourſe with the reſt of the habitable world. Hence it preſents different aſpects: in a ſerene ſky and glowing ſunſhine, the landſcape conveys the idea of a pleaſing retirement; under a loaded atmoſphere, and in cloudy weather,

W. Byrne sculp.

NORTH VIEW OF LLANTHONY ABBEY.

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weather, gloom and dreariness predominate. It was my good fortune to receive the first impressions from this romantic scenery, under the most favourable circumstances; the day was serene, the weather clear, the sun shone in full splendour, and while it softened the rugged aspect of the surrounding mountains, threw a glow of transparency over the majestic ruins.

A curious account of the foundation and history of Lanthony, written in Latin by a monk of the abbey, is preserved in Dugdale's Monasticon, and translated by Atkyns in the history of Gloucestershire; I shall submit to the reader an abstract of this account, and interweave various circumstances from Giraldus Cambrensis, and other authors, which are not mentioned by the monk of Lanthony.

St. David, uncle of king Arthur, and titular saint of Wales, finding a solitary place among woods, rocks, and valleys, built a small chapel on the banks of the Honddy, and passed many years in this hermitage: on his death it was unfrequented during several centuries. This small chapel was called Lan Dewi Nant Honddu *, or the church of St. David on the Honddy, which has been corrupted into Lanthony.

In the reign of William Rufus, Hugh de Laci, a great Norman baron, followed the deer into this valley, and reposed himself with his suite after the chace. William, one of his military retainers, being fatigued with heat and the roughness of the way, lay himself down on the grass to refresh himself. Impressed with the wild solitude of the scenery, he espied the chapel of St. David, and being suddenly impelled by religious enthusiasm, dismissed his companions, and devoted himself to the service of God. "He laid aside his belt," says the monk of Lanthony, "and girded himself with a rope; instead of fine linen he covered himself with hair-cloth, and instead of his soldier's robe he loaded himself with weighty irons. The suit of armour which before defended him from the darts of his enemies, he still wore as a garment to harden him against the soft temptations of his old enemy Satan, that, as the outward man was afflicted by austerity, the inner man might be secured for the service of God. That his zeal

* Pronounced Honthy.

" zeal might not cool, he thus crucified himſelf, and continued his hard armour " on his body until it was worn out with ruſt and age."

After paſſing ſeveral years alone in this ſolitude, the auſterity of his life, and his reputation for ſanctity, induced the venerable Erneſi, chaplain to queen Maud, wife of Henry the firſt, to become his aſſociate. By their united efforts they built a ſmall chapel, which in 1108 was conſecrated by Urban biſhop of the dioceſe, and Rameline biſhop of Hereford, and dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, whoſe ſolitary life in the wilderneſs they affected to imitate.

Soon afterwards Hugh de Laci, earl of Hereford, founded, at the inſtigation of Erneſi, a priory of canons regular of the order of St. Auſtin, likewiſe dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt. Erneſi was choſen prior, and under his regulations, and by his and his brother hermit's example, the new monaſtery acquired ſuch a reputation for ſanctity, " that the great men of the realm, as well Henry the firſt and " his queen, regulated the temporal concerns of the abbey, and accounted them- " ſelves happy to have the prayers of this holy congregation."

In conſequence of this celebrity, large donations in money and lands were repeatedly offered; but Erneſi and his brother hermit declined all gifts, chuſing, as they ſaid, " to dwell poor in the houſe of God." They even put up public prayers againſt an increaſe of wealth, and deprecated every acquiſition of property as a dreadful misfortune. A whimſical anecdote on this ſubject is related by the monk of Lantho ny: " Queen Maud, not ſufficiently acquainted with " the ſanctity and diſintereſtedneſs of William, once deſired permiſſion to put " her hand into his boſom; and when he with great modeſty ſubmitted to her " importunity, ſhe conveyed a large purſe of gold between his coarſe ſhirt and " iron boddice, and thus by a pleaſant and innocent ſubtlety, adminiſtered ſome " comfortable relief to him. But oh! the wonderful contempt of the world! " He diſplayed a rare example that the trueſt happineſs conſiſts in little or " nothing! He complied indeed, but unwillingly, and only with a view that " the queen might employ her devout liberality in adorning the church."

This ſcrupulous delicacy once overcome, riches poured abundantly upon the new eſtabliſhment; large buildings were erected for their convenience, and

Sir. Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne sculp.t

SOUTH VIEW OF LLANTHONY ABBEY.

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a more magnificent church was conſtructed. The preciſe æra of its foundation is not aſcertained; but it was undoubtedly raiſed between 1108 and 1136, when the greater part of the monks removed to Hereford. We know, from the authority of Giraldus Cambrenſis, that in 1186 it had been long finiſhed; he deſcribes it as covered with lead, and not inelegantly conſtructed, with a roof of ſtone *.

The ſtate and ſituation of the monaſtery at this period are thus deſcribed by the monk of Lanthony: "There ſtands in a deep valley a conventual church, "ſituated to promote true religion, beyond almoſt all the churches in England; "quiet for contemplation, and retired for converſation with the Almighty; "here the ſorrowful complaints of the oppreſſed do not diſquiet, or the mad "contentions of the froward do not diſturb; but a calm peace and perfect "charity invite to holy religion, and baniſh diſcord. But why do I deſcribe the "ſituation of the place, when all things are ſo much changed ſince its priſtine "eſtabliſhment? The broken rocks were traverſed by herds of wild and ſwift "footed animals †; theſe rocks ſurrounded and darkened the valley, for they "were crowned with tall towering trees, which yielded a delightful proſpect, at "a great diſtance, to all beholders, both by ſea and land. The middle of the "valley, although clothed with wood, and ſunk into a narrow and deep abyſs, "was ſometimes diſturbed by a ſtrong blighting wind, at other times ob-"ſcured with dark clouds and violent rains, incommoded with ſevere froſts, "or heaped up with ſnow, whilſt in other places there was a mild and gentle "air.

"The large and plentiful ſprings from the neighbouring mountains fell with "a pleaſant murmur into a river, in the midſt of the valley, abounding with "fiſh. Sometimes, after great rains, which were extremely frequent, the floods, "impatient of conſtraint, inundated the neighbouring places, overturning rocks,

"and

* "Eccleſia plumbeis laminis operta, lapideo ta-"bulatu pro loci natura non indecentu extructa." Itin. Cam. c. 3.

† Theſe animals were principally deer: Giraldus Cambrenſis alſo mentions the herds of wild animals which browſed on theſe mountains. "Hic clauſtra-"les in clauſtro ſedentes cùm reſpirandi gratia forte "ſuſpiciunt, ad quaſcunque partes trans alta tecto-"rum culmina, montium vertices quaſi cœlum tan-"gentes, ipſaſque plerumque feras (quarum hic "copia eſt) in ſummo paſcentes tanquam in ultimo "viſas horizonte proſpiciunt."

" and tearing up trees by the roots. Theſe ſpacious mountains, however, con-
" tained fruitful paſtures, and rich meadows for feeding cattle, which compen-
" ſated for the barrenneſs of other parts, and made amends for the want of corn.
" The air, though thick, was healthful, and preſerved the inhabitants to an ex-
" treme old age; but the people were ſavage, without religion, vagabonds, and
" addicted to ſtealth; they had no ſettled abode, and removed as wind and
" weather inclined them."

But this period of ſplendour and tranquillity ceaſed with the reign of Henry the firſt; during the conteſt between the empreſs Maud and Stephen, the monks were oppreſſed, pillaged, and often groſsly inſulted, by the natives. The monk of Lanthony gives in ſober ſadneſs a ſtriking account of the ſufferings which occaſioned their removal from the valley of Ewias. " A neighbouring Welſhman
" ſought refuge from his perſecutors in that conſecrated place; but his enemies,
" purſuing him with inexorable malice, waylaid him in the outward court. In
" this diſtreſs he fled, with the women of his family, into the innermoſt offices;
" the women ſeize the refectory; and are not aſhamed to ſing and profane the
" place with their light and effeminate behaviour. What could the ſoldiers of
" Chriſt do? They are ſurrounded without by the weapons of their enemies;
" arms are without doors, and frights within: they cannot procure ſuſtenance
" to ſatisfy their hunger, nor attend divine ſervice with accuſtomed reverence,
" from the vain inſolence of their ungrateful gueſts."

In this diſtreſs, they applied to Robert de Betun, biſhop of Hereford, who had ſucceeded Erneſi as prior; the biſhop, compaſſionating their ſufferings, invited them to Hereford, reſigned his palace, and for two years maintained all who quitted the convent at his own charge. He then prevailed on Milo de Laci to grant a ſpot of ground, called Hyde, near Gloceſter, where, with the money ſaved from Lanthony, and with farther ſupplies from the biſhop, they built a church, in the ſpace of a year, which was ſolemnly conſecrated, in 1136, by the biſhops of Worceſter and Hereford; it was dedicated to

* Speed confounds Lanthony in Monmouthſhire with Lanthony in Gloceſterſhire, and aſſerts that the former was not founded before 1137

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne sculp.t

WEST VIEW OF LLANTHONY ABBEY.

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LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC

to the Virgin Mary; and was called Lanthony, after the name of the former church. In this ſpot they eſtabliſhed themſelves as a temporary reſidence; the new convent was a cell to the ancient monaſtery, to which the majority of the monks were bound to return on the reſtoration of peace and tranquillity.

Milo and his family endowed Lanthony the ſecond with large poſſeſſions; king John alſo was a conſiderable benefactor, and gave ſeveral grants of land. By theſe acceſſions, the new Lanthony roſe in opulence and ſplendour; the monks, courted by the great, and abounding in every ſpecies of luxury, were delighted with their ſituation, and forgot the original wilderneſs. They not only refuſed to return, but even claimed for the new eſtabliſhment the pre-eminence over the mother church; while the few who continued to reſide in the valley of Ewias, were oppreſſed and pillaged.

The monk of Lanthony pours forth, in the moſt pathetic language, doleful complaints on the deſolated ſtate of the mother church. "When the ſtorm "ſubſided, and peace was reſtored, then did the ſons of Lanthony tear up the "bounds of their mother church, and refuſe to ſerve God as their duty "required; for they uſed to ſay, there was much difference between the city of "Gloceſter and the wild rocks of Hatyrel; between the river Severn and the "brook of Hodani; between the wealthy Engliſh and the beggarly Welch. "*There* fertile meadows, *here* barren heaths; wherefore, elated with the luxuries "of their new ſituation, and weary of this, they ſtigmatized it as a place unfit "for a reaſonable creature, much leſs for religious perſons. I have heard it "affirmed, and I partly believe it, that ſome of them declared in their light "diſcourſe, (I hope it did not proceed from the rancour of their hearts) 'they "wiſhed every ſtone of this ancient foundation a ſtout hare.' Others have "ſacrilegiouſly ſaid (and with their permiſſion I will proclaim it) they wiſhed the "church, and all its offices, ſunk to the bottom of the ſea. They have uſurped "and laviſhed all the revenues of the church: *there* they have built lofty and "ſtately offices; *here* they have ſuffered our venerable buildings to fall to ruin. "And to avoid the ſcandal of deſerting an ancient monaſtery, long accuſtomed "to religious worſhip, and endowed with large poſſeſſions, they ſend hither their

" old and uſeleſs members, who can be neither profitable to themſelves or " others; who might ſay with the apoſtle, 'We are made the ſcum and outcaſt of " the brethren.' They permitted the monaſtery to be reduced to ſuch poverty, " that the friars were without ſurplices, and compelled to perform the duties of " the church, againſt the cuſtom and rules of the order. Sometimes they had no " breeches, and could not attend divine ſervice; ſometimes one day's bread muſt " ſerve for two, whilſt the monks of Gloceſter enjoyed ſuperfluities. Our re- " monſtrances either excited their anger or ridicule, but produced no alteration: " if theſe complaints were repeated, they replied, 'who would go and ſing to " the wolves? Do the whelps of wolves delight in loud muſic?' They even " made ſport, and when any perſon was ſent hither, would aſk, 'What fault has " he committed? Why is he ſent to priſon?' Thus was the miſtreſs and mother " houſe called a dungeon, and a place of baniſhment for criminals.

" Notwithſtanding theſe ſcandalous and cruel oppreſſions, many reſpected the " mother church with the affection of a ſon; yet none ventured to ſtand up in " her behalf; none dared to complain; if any one preſumed to mutter, he " was puniſhed as a heinous delinquent: all therefore acquieſced, whilſt God " by his juſt will, though unaccountable unto us, permitted the library to " be deſpoiled of its books; the ſtorehouſe of its deeds and charters; of its ſilk " veſtments and relicks, embroidered with gold and ſilver; and the treaſury " of all its precious goods. Whatever was valuable or ornamental in the " church of St. John, was conveyed to Gloceſter, without the ſmalleſt oppoſi- " tion; even the bells, notwithſtanding their great weight, were tranſported to " the ſame place."

The deſolated ſtate of the abbey in the valley of Ewias, induced Edward the fourth to unite the two monaſteries, by charter, in which he made the church near Gloceſter the principal, and obliged the monks to maintain a reſidentiary prior and four canons in the original abbey. It is however undecided whether this union took place; for at the diſſolution of monaſteries, the two abbies are ſeparately valued; that near Gloceſter at £.648. 19*s.* 11*d.* and this in Monmouthſhire, at £.71, 3*s.* 2*d.** At this period John Ambrus was prior of Lanthony,

* Dugdale's Monaſt. According to Speed, £.748. 0*s.* 11*d.* and £.112. 1*s.* 5*d.*

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne sculp.t

LANTHONY ABBEY, EAST VIEW.

Lanthony, in Monmouthſhire, and with John Neleand, and three others, ſubſcribed to the ſupremacy in 1534*.

The ſite of this monaſtery was granted to Richard Arnold†, and together with the eſtate, purchaſed from captain Arnold, of Lanvihangel, by auditor Harley, and is now the property of the preſent earl of Oxford.

* Willis's Mitred Abbies, vol. 2. p. 142. Wharton, in his Anglia Sacra, vol. 2. p. 321. has given a catalogue of the priors, from Erneſi till the diſſolution, when Richard Hempſted, whom Anthony Wood calls Hart, was prior of Lanthony in Gloceſterſhire. In 1534 he ſubſcribed to the ſupremacy, with twenty-two others, and in 1539 ſigned the ſurrender with the ſame number. He obtained a penſion of £.100 per annum. According to Wood, he gave many ancient manuſcripts, which he had taken from the library of the abbey, to his brother-in-law.—Thyre. Athenæ Oxonienſes, vol. 2. p. 520.

† Jones's Index to the Records of the Exchequer, art. Ricardus Arnold. Tanner calls him Nicholas Arnold.

CHAPTER 23.

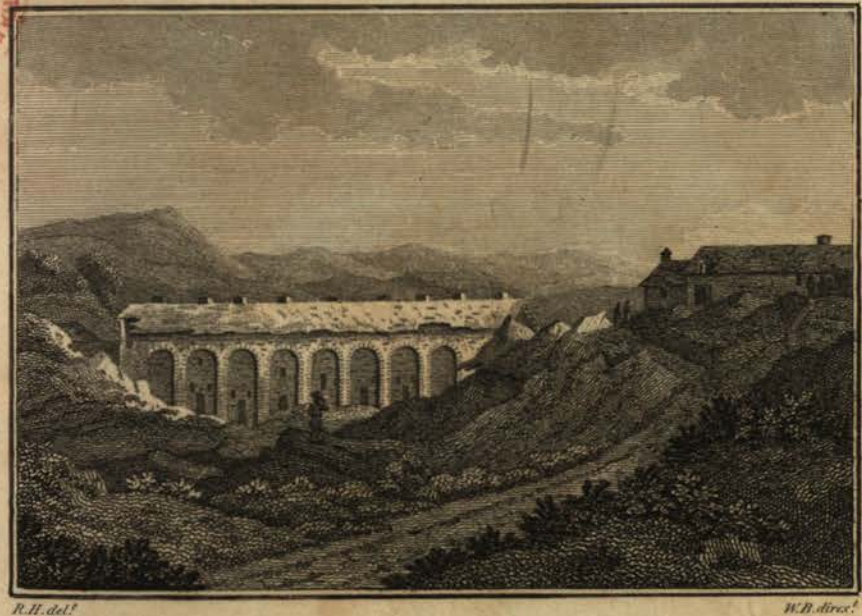
Excurſions into the Mountains in the Vicinity of Lanvihangel.—Oldcaſtle.—Character of Lord Cobham.—Encampment above Trewyn Houſe.—Altyrynys.—Campſton Hill and Houſe.—Langua.—Summit of the Gaer.—Situations and Forms of the adjacent Mountains.—Vale of Langruny.—Junction of the Three Counties.—Coed y Gruny.—Maſſacre of Richard Earl of Clare.

BESIDES repeated viſits to Lanthony, I made various excurſions in that mountainous region which lies to the north-weſt of Abergavenny; a diſtrict imperfectly laid down in all the maps of Monmouthſhire, and which I was therefore deſirous of viſiting. From Lanvihangel Crickhornel, ſituated at the extremity of the paſs between the Skyrrid and the Black mountains, five miles from Abergavenny, I uſually took my departure; here I left my chaiſe, and proceeding on horſeback explored this intereſting tract; here I returned, and after fatiguing excurſions, ſometimes walking, and ſometimes riding, gladly reſumed my place in the carriage, and reached Abergavenny at the cloſe of the evening.

My firſt excurſion was to Oldcaſtle, according to Gale and Stukeley the Bleſtium of Antoninus, and the reſidence of the celebrated reformer ſir John Oldcaſtle lord Cobham. From Abergavenny, in company with ſir Richard Hoare, I rode along the Hereford road, as far as Lanvihangel, then turned to the left, and proceeded to the Honddy, where the road ſeparates into two branches, one leading to Lanthony, and the other to Longtown in Herefordſhire. We purſued the latter route, croſſed the river over a ſtone bridge, continued at the foot of the Black mountains, and after traverſing a ſmall diſtrict of Herefordſhire,

R.H. del.ᵗ W.B. direx.ᵗ

OLD CASTLE.



R.H. del.ᵗ W.B. direx.ᵗ

COVER'D BRIDGE AT BLANEAVON.

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ſhire, in which Trewyn houſe is ſituated, re-entered Monmouthſhire. Between three and four miles from Lanvihangel, we deſcried the church and village of Oldcaſtle placed on the ſlope of the Black mountains, and quitting the road aſcended to the ſpot. This little village has been magnified into a Roman ſtation, and erroneouſly ſuppoſed by Gale and Stukeley to be the ſite of the ancient Bleſtium *, although neither its poſition or appearance in the ſmalleſt degree juſtify the conjecture. This opinion was founded merely on the diſcovery of a few Roman coins, and on the veſtiges of ancient encampments in the vicinity. There are indeed the remains of many encampments, and the Roman road from Gobannium or Abergavenny, to Magna or Kencheſter, ran in the direction of the preſent high road from Lanvihangel to Longtown. It is therefore probable, that the Romans had ſmall camps for the protection of this road, of which the ſuppoſed ſtation of Oldcaſtle may have been one. Slight traces of circular entrenchments are viſible near the church, but not ſufficient to indicate either the æra or purpoſe of their conſtruction.

Oldcaſtle was remarkable as the reſidence of the celebrated reformer ſir John Oldcaſtle lord Cobham, who is called by Horace Walpole, "the firſt author, as well as the firſt martyr among our nobility." He aſſumed his name from this place, and became lord Cobham in virtue of his marriage with Joan †, granddaughter and heireſs of John lord Cobham. He was a man of great talents, ſpirit, and courage; and after being the diſſolute companion of Henry the fifth, was, like his maſter, awakened to virtue by a ſenſe of religion. Diſguſted with the corruptions of the church of Rome, and enlightened by the arguments of Wickliff, he became the chief of the Lollards, and ſhook by his writings and example the authority of the Roman ſee. His bitter reproaches againſt the hierarchy excited perſecution; perſecution inflamed his ardent temper, and urged him to petulance of expreſſion, and deeds of violence, which outraged even the tolerating

* See chapter on Monmouth.

† She is ſaid to have had five huſbands; the firſt was ſir Robert de Hemenhele, knight; the ſecond was ſir Reginald Braybrook, who died in 1405, by whom ſhe left an only daughter, Joan, who conveyed her barony and eſtates to her huſband ſir Thomas Brooke of Somerſetſhire; the third ſir Nicholas Hawberk, who died 1407; the fourth was ſir John Oldcaſtle; the fifth was ſir Nicholas Harpeden, knight. She died in 1433, and was buried in Cobham church. Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, p. 103.

rating ſpirit of Henry the fifth. He was condemned for hereſy and rebellion; at the ſtake he diſplayed the greateſt calmneſs and intrepidity of mind, and gave an inſtance of ſingular enthuſiaſm, by requeſting favour for the Lollards, ſhould he riſe again the third day *. Poſterity have forgotten his defects in his virtues, the enthuſiaſt is loſt in the martyr; his death is an epoch in the annals of the church, and the reformation ſprung from his aſhes.

The old caſtle, called the court houſe, ſuppoſed to be the reſidence of this celebrated perſonage, was taken down about thirty years ago, and a new farm houſe conſtructed from the materials. Although nothing remains to ſatisfy the antiquary or hiſtorian, yet the traveller will be pleaſed with the ſingular and pictureſque ſituation of the church and village, on the ſides of a bleak and hoary mountain, the ſummit of which overhangs the ſequeſtered vale of Ewias, and commands an extenſive view of the fertile diſtricts of Herefordſhire and Monmouthſhire. The contraſt between the bleak ſummit of the mountain and the rich meadows beneath, which are watered by the winding Monnow, is extremely ſtriking.

To the ſouth of Oldcaſtle, on the ſame chain of the Black mountains, are the remains of an ancient encampment, on the brow of the precipice above Trewyn houſe, in the county of Hereford, but cloſe to the frontiers of Monmouthſhire. It conſiſts of an oblong rectangular entrenchment, incloſing an area of 485 feet by 240, and bears evident marks of Roman origin. On one ſide is an outer and larger entrenchment, of a ſemicircular form, defended with a double ditch and rampart, which was probably poſterior to the original fortreſs, and added by the Britons or Saxons, when they occupied this poſt; it was an excellent ſituation, as well for an exploratory camp, as for the defence of the road, which ran near the foot of the eminence. This height, in addition to the extenſive objects ſeen from Oldcaſtle, looks down upon the receſſes of the Black mountains, and commands the range of hills which ſtretch from the neighbourhood of Abergavenny, beyond the frontiers of Brecknockſhire and Herefordſhire.

From this encampment I walked down the ſteep ſide of the mountain, which overhangs Trewyn Houſe, the ſeat of Mr. Roſier, croſſed the road to Longtown at

* Walſingham.—Dugdale, art. Cobham.

at the turnpike, continued along the left bank of the Honddy, which here forms the boundary between the two counties, and croſſed a bridge over the Monnow to Altyrynys, an ancient manſion of the Cecil family, delightfully ſituated at the ſpot where the Monnow and Honddy unite. The ſcenery of this ſequeſtered place is ſingularly pictureſque; the two ſtreams are clear and rapid, their banks are feathered with trees, overhanging the water; an avenue of tall pines darkens the back ground of the picture, and the old manſion, which though conſiderably reduced ſtill retains ſigns of former magnificence, is almoſt ſurrounded by the winding Monnow. Altyrynys ſtands on the left bank of that river, in the hundred of Ewyas Harold, Herefordſhire; the oppoſite bank is in Monmouthſhire, and from this ſpot the Monnow continues to be the boundary of the two counties, as far as Perthîr, in the vicinity of Monmouth.

Two miles from Lanvihangel, cloſe to the Herefordſhire road, at the ſeventh mile ſtone from Abergavenny, is Campſton Hill, ſo called from an ancient encampment, where, according to Harris, ſeveral Roman coins were diſcovered; but the ſummit of the hill, which is a level common, is ſo much excavated for ſtone quarries, that no traces of regular entrenchments can be diſcerned. At a ſmall diſtance beyond, on the ſlope of the hill, is a farm called Campſton Houſe, once belonging to a branch of the Prichard family, where Charles the firſt is ſaid to have paſſed the night* in his progreſs through Monmouthſhire, during the civil wars. The apartment in which he ſlept is now uſed for a granary; but the viſit of the royal gueſt is not commemorated by any memorial, and is only known by tradition.

Four miles beyond Campſton Hill, on the right of the road leading from Abergavenny to Hereford, is Langua; according to Tanner Langkywan, or Langwin, the ſite of an alien priory of black monks; a cell to the abbey of Lira in Normandy. On the diſſolution of alien priories, it was annexed to the Carthuſian priory of Shene, in Surry, as parcel thereof, granted, 37 Henry VIII. to John Doyley and John Scudamore, and is now the property of John Scudamore,

* In the Iter Carolum, the king is ſaid to have dined only at Campſton houſe.

more, eſq. of Kentchurch. The ancient houſe has been recently taken down, and a farm built with the materials. The pariſh church is pleaſantly ſituated on the other ſide of the road, in a ſequeſtered vale, at the foot of a ſteep declivity near the banks of the Monnow.

Theſe places are ſcarce worthy of being viſited as objects of curioſity, but deſerve notice, becauſe they afford opportunities of examining this delightful country, abounding in beauties of nature, which aſſume new appearances as they are ſeen in different poſitions. The touriſt ought not to omit traverſing the road from Langua to Campſton Hill; it is a natural terrace, running on a ridge of eminences, and commanding on one ſide the Graig and Garway, and on the other the Black mountains, with a full view of the Sugar Loaf and its dependent hills, and the Skyrrid with its double ſummit.

The laſt excurſion, which I made in this mountainous diſtrict, was to the ſummit of the Gaer. From Lanvihangel I purſued the road to Longtown, which I quitted at the Honddy, and followed that leading to Lanthony, till I paſſed Upper Stanton, when I mounted the ſides of the Gaer, a mountain partly ſituated in Monmouthſhire, and partly in a diſtrict of Herefordſhire called the Fothog, which is wholly inſulated and encircled by the counties of Monmouth and Brecon. I aſcended a ſteep and ſtony road, and in half an hour reached the ſummit of the mountain, which is crowned with an ancient encampment.

The Gaer occupying nearly the center of the great chain, which ſtretches to the north and north-weſt from Abergavenny, beyond the confines of Herefordſhire and Brecknockſhire, the ſituations and forms of the circumjacent mountains are plainly diſtinguiſhed from its ſummit. The firſt of this chain is the Derry, which I have already deſcribed, as riſing from Abergavenny, and which ſkirts the Hereford road for the ſpace of two miles; the northern ſide appears ſprinkled with underwood, and the ſummit is crowned by the Sugar Loaf in all its beauty. To the north of the Derry ſucceeds a bare ruſſet mountain of an oblong form, called the Brynaro*, which turns at the ſcathed elm on the Hereford road, and terminates

* Suppoſed to be derived from Bryn-arw, or the rugged ſummit.

minates at the foot of the Gaer. Oppoſite to the Brynaro, on the eaſtern ſide of the Hereford road, riſes the Great Skyrrid, in all its ruggedneſs, with its forked ſummit eminently conſpicuous. To the north of the Brynaro, and to the north-eaſt of the Skyrrid, extends the long line of the Black mountains, ſeparated from the Gaer by the valley of the Honddy; a dark and gloomy maſs, ſweeping in a ſemicircular direction, and ſpreading in various ramifications. In their inmoſt receſſes appears the deep vale of Ewias, and the ſingular curvature of the dingle, which takes the name of Cwmyoi * from its ſhape, and communicates it to the village, whoſe romantic ſituation in the midſt of broken crags is peculiarly ſtriking. To the weſt of the Black mountains, and to the north-weſt of the Gaer, riſes a ſucceſſion of eminences, briſtling with crags innumerable, ſtretching acroſs Brecknockſhire, and loſt in the diſtant counties of Wales. At the foot of the Gaer, I admired the beautiful vale of Langruny, watered by a lively torrent, and terminating at the north-weſtern extremity of the Derry, from which point the Lanwenarth hills border the vale of the Uſk, and join the Rolben.

Beyond this chain of mountains, which I have thus attempted to diſcriminate, the eye of the ſpectator glances over the fertile parts of Monmouthſhire and Herefordſhire, backed by the diſtant hills in the counties of Worceſter, Gloceſter, and Somerſet, and interſected by the æſtuary of the Severn.

Deſcending from the ſummit, I continued along the Fothog, down the ſide of the Gaer, leaving the church of Patricio, in the county of Brecon, at the diſtance of about a mile on the right, until I reached a ſmith's ſhop, in the vale of Langruny, at the ſide of the torrent called the Great Gruny, where the three counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, and Hereford unite. This ſpot is two miles from Lanvihangel, three from Langruny, and five from Abergavenny, and ſtands at the foot of the Derry, near the old turnpike road, which led through Lanvihangel and Stanton, and paſſed between the Brynaro and the Gaer. This diſtrict was part of the great foreſt of Moyle, or Moel, the liberties of which were granted by Jaſper duke of Bedford, as lord of Abergavenny, to the inhabitants of Landeilo and Lanwenarth, and is ſtill called the foreſt. It was anciently

* Cwmyoi, in Welſh Cwm-jau, ſignifies the Dingle, or Valley of the Yoke.

ciently denominated from the torrent Coed y Gruny, or the wood of the Gruny; and in times of feudal barbariſm, witneſſed the maſſacre of Richard earl of Clare. Having made great conqueſts in different parts of Wales, he was paſſing from his caſtle of Uſk to his territories in Brecknockſhire. Being eſcorted by Brien Fitz Count, lord of Abergavenny, with a conſiderable body of troops, to the ſkirts of the foreſt, he imprudently diſmiſſed his guard, in oppoſition to the repeated remonſtrances of his friendly conductor, and continued his route, with only his uſual attendants, unarmed, and preceded by two minſtrels, who piped and ſung alternately, as if inviting the ſtroke of the aſſaſſin. In a narrow paſs, Jorwerth of Caerleon, and a numerous corps of Welſhmen, ſuddenly ruſhed from the thickets, and ſlew, without reſiſtance, the earl of Clare and his whole ſuite *.

From the vale of Langruny I proceeded along the level road, between the Derry and the Brynaro, through Bettus, a hamlet in the pariſh of Landeilo, which contains a ſmall gothic chapel now in ruins, and entered the Hereford road about two miles from Abergavenny.

* Geraldus Camb. cap. 4.

CHAPTER 24.

Excurſion from Abergavenny to Blaenavon.—Riſe and Progreſs of the Iron Works.—Route through the Valley of Avon Lwyd to Pont y Pool.

IN the courſe of my expeditions I three times viſited the iron works of Blaenavon, recently eſtabliſhed in the vicinity of Abergavenny, which form a new and intereſting object in the tour of Monmouthſhire.

From Abergavenny, in company with ſir Richard Hoare, I paſſed over the ſtone bridge of the Uſk, along the plain between the river and the Blorenge, and went up the ſteep ſides of the mountain, in a hollow way incloſed between high hedges, with occaſional openings, which admit different views of Abergavenny and the circumjacent country. Emerging from the thickets of wood which clothe the lower and middle parts, we aſcended a common, ſtrewed with vaſt maſſes of rock, from whence a dreary moor leads to the ſummit, overlooking the works of Blaenavon, ſituated in the hollow of the mountain, near the ſource of the Avon Lwyd, from which the place derives its appellation.

At ſome diſtance, the works have the appearance of a ſmall town, ſurrounded with heaps of ore, coal, and limeſtone, and enlivened with all the buſtle and activity of an opulent and increaſing eſtabliſhment. The view of the buildings, which are conſtructed in the excavations of the rocks, is extremely pictureſque, and heightened by the volumes of black ſmoke emitted by the furnaces. While my friend ſir Richard Hoare was engaged in ſketching a view of this ſingular ſcene, of which an engraving is annexed, I employed myſelf in examining the mines and works.

This ſpot and its vicinity produce abundance of iron, with coal and limeſtone,

and every article neceſſary for ſmelting the ore: the veins lie in the adjacent rocks, under ſtrata of coal, and are from three and a half to ſeven or eight inches in thickneſs; they differ in richneſs, but yield, upon an average, not leſs than forty-four pounds of pig iron to one hundred weight of ore. The principal part of the iron, after being formed into pigs, is conveyed by means of the rail road and canal to Newport, from whence it is exported.

The ſhafts of the mines are horizontal, penetrating one below the other, and under the coal ſhafts; iron rail roads are conſtructed to convey the coal and ore; which are puſhed as far as the ſhafts are worked, and gradually carried on as the excavations are extended; the longeſt of theſe ſubterraneous paſſages penetrates not leſs than three quarters of a mile. The coal is ſo abundant as not only to ſupply the fuel neceſſary for the works, but large quantities are ſent to Abergavenny, Pont y Pool, and Uſk.

Although theſe works were only finiſhed in 1789, three hundred and fifty men are employed, and the population of the diſtrict exceeds a thouſand ſouls. The hollows of the rocks and ſides of the hills are ſtrewed with numerous habitations, and the heathy grounds converted into fields of corn and paſture. Such are the wonderworking powers of induſtry when directed by judgment!

The want of habitations for the increaſing number of families, has occaſioned an ingenious contrivance: a bridge being thrown acroſs a deep dingle for the ſupport of a rail road leading into a mine, the arches, which are ten in number, have been walled up, and formed into dwellings; the bridge is covered with a penthouſe roof, and backed by perpendicular rocks, in which the mines are excavated. Numerous workmen continually paſs and repaſs, and low cars, laden with coal or iron ore, roll along with their broad and grooved wheels; theſe objects, loſing themſelves under the roof of the bridge, again emerging, and then diſappearing in the ſubterraneous paſſages of the rock, form a ſingular and animated picture, not unlike the moving figures in a camera obſcura.

The mountainous diſtrict which contains theſe mineral treaſures, is held by the earl of Abergavenny, under a leaſe from the crown. It was formerly let to the family of Hanbury, of Pont y Pool, for leſs than £. 100 a year; and as the value

of

of the mines was not ſufficiently appreciated, no works were conſtructed; but the maſſes of ore found near the ſurface were conveyed to the forges of Pont y Pool. Soon after the expiration of the term, the diſtrict was granted by another leaſe to Hill and company, who began theſe works in 1788, and expended forty thouſand pounds before any return was made; this expence, however, has been amply repaid by the produce.

On conſidering the riſe and rapid progreſs of the iron manufactories in this diſtrict, as well as in the neighbouring mountains of Monmouthſhire and Glamorganſhire, it is a matter of wonder that theſe mineral treaſures ſhould have been ſo long neglected. This wonder will increaſe, when it is known that iron was manufactured in this country at a period beyond the reach of tradition or hiſtory. Large heaps of ſlug or cinder have been repeatedly diſcovered, ſome of which are evidently the product of bloomeries, the moſt ancient method of fuſing iron; in other places are traced the ſites of furnaces long diſuſed, of which no account of their foundation can be collected. The appearance of theſe iron cinders, and the veſtiges of ancient furnaces, indicate that many parts of this mountainous diſtrict, now wholly bare, were formerly covered with large tracts of wood; charcoal being the only ſpecies of fuel originally uſed in the operation of ſmelting, both in the bloomeries and furnaces. This conjecture is corroborated by numerous names, alluding to woods and foreſts, in places which have never been known to produce trees; and is ſtill farther aſcertained by the diſcovery of trunks and branches, with their leaves, under the boggy ſoil in the vicinity of Blaenavon, and on the neighbouring hills.

The lands being cleared, and the foreſts neglected, their deſtruction was haſtened by numerous herds of goats, maintained in theſe mountainous regions; the want of fuel occaſioned the gradual decline of the bloomeries and furnaces, and for a conſiderable period little or no iron was manufactured.

About forty years ago the iron works ſuddenly revived, from the beneficial diſcovery of making pig iron with pit coal, inſtead of charcoal, which was ſoon afterwards followed by the improvement of manufacturing even bar iron by means of pit coal: hence a diſtrict, which contained ſuch extenſive

tenſive mines of ore and coal, prodigious quantities of limeſtone, and numerous ſtreams of water, could not fail of becoming the ſeat of many flouriſhing eſtabliſhments. Beſides theſe local advantages, the progreſs of the manufactories has been powerfully aided by the application of mechanics; particularly by the uſe of the ſteam engine, and the great improvement of water machines; but in no inſtance have they derived more advantage than from the adoption of rollers, inſtead of forge hammers, now uſed for the formation of bar iron, with a degree of diſpatch, as well as exactneſs, before unknown. From this concurrence of circumſtances, the ſucceſs has been no leſs rapid than extraordinary: fifteen years ago the weekly quantity of pig iron made in this part of Monmouthſhire, and in the contiguous diſtrict of Glamorganſhire, did not exceed 60 tons; at preſent it ſcarcely falls ſhort of 600; at that period no bar iron was manufactured; but now the quantity amounts weekly to more than 300 tons. The works are ſtill rapidly increaſing in extent and importance, and appear likely to ſurpaſs the other iron manufactories throughout the kingdom *.

In the vicinity of Blaenavon we obſerved the proceſs of making a rail road, ſo called becauſe it is formed by a kind of frame with iron rails, or bars, laid lengthways, and faſtened or cramped by means of croſs bars. The ground being excavated, about ſix feet in breadth, and two in depth, is ſtrewed over with broken pieces of ſtone, and the frame laid down; it is compoſed of rails, ſleepers, or croſs bars, and under ſleepers. The rail is a bar of caſt iron, four feet in length, three inches thick, and one and a half broad; its extremities are reſpectively concave and convex, or in other words are morticed and tenanted into each other, and faſtened at the ends by two wooden pegs to a croſs bar called the ſleeper. This ſleeper was originally of iron, but experience having ſhewn that iron was liable to ſnap or bend, it is now made of wood, which is conſiderably cheaper, and requires leſs repair. Under each extremity of the ſleeper is a ſquare piece of wood, called the under ſleeper, to which it is attached by a peg. The frame being thus laid down and filled with ſtones, gravel, and earth, the iron rails form a ridge above the ſurface, over which the wheels of the cars glide by means of iron grooved rims three inches and a half broad.

This

* For theſe obſervations I am principally indebted to Mr. Cockſhutt.

This is the general ſtructure of the road when carried in a ſtrait line; at the junction of two roads, and to facilitate the paſſage of two cars in oppoſite directions, moveable rails, called turn rails, are occaſionally uſed, which are faſtened with ſcrews inſtead of pegs, and may be puſhed ſideways.

The level of the ground is taken with great exactneſs, and the declivity is in general ſo gentle as to be almoſt imperceptible *: the road, ſometimes conveyed in a ſtrait line, ſometimes winding round the ſides of precipices, is a pictureſque object, and the cars filled with coals or iron, and gliding along occaſionally without horſes, impreſs the traveller, who is unaccuſtomed to ſuch ſpectacles, with pleaſing aſtoniſhment. The expence of forming theſe roads is very conſiderable, varying according to the nature of the ground, and the difficulty or facility of procuring proper materials; it is ſeldom leſs than a thouſand pounds per mile, and ſometimes exceeds that ſum.

The cars, from the ſolidity of their ſtructure, and the quantity of iron uſed in the axle tree and wheels, when loaded weigh not leſs than three tons and a half; they are drawn by a ſingle horſe, and the driver ſtands on a kind of footboard behind, and can inſtantaneouſly ſtop the car by means of a lever and a drop, which falls between the wheels, and ſuſpends their motion. In places where the declivity is more rapid than uſual, the horſe is taken out, and the car impelled forward by its own weight.

On our return to Abergavenny, I rode to the ſummit, and walked from thence to the turnpike, at the foot of the Blorenge, which I found a much more agreeable way than along the hollow road I had before traverſed. As I deſcended, the views were no leſs pleaſing than diverſified; the principal features of the ſhifting landſcape, were the rich vale watered by the Uſk; the mountains above and round Abergavenny; the town, which here formed a ſweep under the undulating Derry, crowned by the Sugar Loaf, and there appeared ſtanding on a gentle riſe, with its towers and ruined caſtle backed by the majeſtic Skyrrid.

Near a caſtellated farm houſe belonging to Mr. Hanbury Williams, I left the hollow

* The perpendicular fall of the ground is commonly no more than an inch in a yard, and ſcarcely ever more than three inches.

hollow and ſtony road, and croſſed over fields of paſture; I then paſſed through a deep glen, by the ſide of murmuring rills, and loſt ſight of the town, vale, and mountains, which again preſented themſelves to view. This delightful walk at the end of two miles conducted me into the road near the right bank of the Uſk, where I remounted my horſe, and rode ſlowly on, ſtrongly impreſſed with this delightful and ſublime ſcenery.

The pleaſure which we received from this expedition, induced us to make a ſecond excurſion to Blaenavon, but inſtead of returning to Abergavenny, we continued our route down the valley of the Avon Lwyd, on the rail road to Pont y Pool. The road runs through a narrow vale, bounded by ſloping heights, clothed with underwood, and watered by the Avon Lwyd, or Grey river, which from a little rill, is gradually ſwelled with mountain ſtreams into a rapid torrent. The vale is at firſt a deep and narrow glen, wholly occupied by the torrent, but ſoon expands, and becomes cultivated; the right ſide is ſteep, the left gradually ſhelving to the river, and both are richly covered with trees, and hanging thickets of alder, beech, aſh, and oak. The left ſide exhibits a ſucceſſion of neat farm houſes, with ſmall incloſures of corn and paſture, forming receſſes in the wood; theſe little demeſnes are moſtly freeholds. In the whole valley, which is five miles in length, there is ſcarcely a foot of land not cultivated, or overſpread with wood, excepting a ſingle patch of rock and heath, which is finely contraſted with the ſurrounding verdure. Though the ſcene is wild, nothing is rugged or abrupt, except the torrent foaming over its craggy channel, in a hollow abyſs half obſcured by trees.

Approaching Pont y Pool, the vale diminiſhed in breadth, and was cloſed with the rich and wooded eminences of Pont y Pool park. We ſoon reached the commencement of the canal, and after croſſing it over three ſtone bridges, deſcended to the town.

In a ſubſequent excurſion to Blaenavon, which I made from Pont y Pool, I received great marks of hoſpitality and attention from Mr. Hopkins, one of the proprietors, who is conſtructing a comfortable and elegant manſion at the northern extremity of this beautiful vale.

CHAPTER 25.

Pont y Pool.—Japan Manufacture.—Anecdotes of the Hanbury Family.—Pont y Pool Park and Houſe.—Trevethin Church.

THE town of Pont y Pool is ſingularly placed on the edge of a ſteep cliff, overhanging the Avon Lwyd, and on the ſlope of a declivity under impending hills, partly bare, and partly mantled with wood. The line of the canal is ſeen winding above the town; a rapid torrent, deſcending from a lake at the foot of the Mynydd Maen, flows under the canal, and ruſhing impetuouſly along the outſkirts of the town, precipitates itſelf into the Avon Lwyd, which rolls in an abyſs beneath.

The appellation of Pont y Pool is modern, ſuppoſed to be derived from a bridge thrown over a large pool, which ſupplies water for a forge, but is a corruption of Pont ap Howell or Howell's bridge *.

Pont y Pool is a large ſtraggling place, containing 250 houſes, and 1500 ſouls †. Several neat habitations, and numerous ſhops, preſent an appearance of thriving proſperity, notwithſtanding the duſky aſpect of the town, occaſioned by the adjacent forges. The inhabitants derive great ſupport from the iron works and collieries, and have been recently benefited by the trade of the canal. The place is the principal mart for the natives of the mountainous diſtrict,

* Before the exiſtence of the preſent town, the place contained very few houſes, and was called, from the church, Trevethin. Near the bridge over the Avon Lwyd, was a neat houſe belonging to Davydd ap Howell, the anceſtor of the late Mr. Edmund Davies, who was agent to the Hanbury family. From the vicinity of his reſidence the bridge was called Pont Davydd ap Howell, abbreviated by the Welſh to Pont-ap-Howell, and corrupted to Pont-a-pool and Pont y Pool. From Mr. Evans.

† From the Rev. J. Williams the vicar.

diſtrict, and the weekly market is not the leaſt conſiderable, and the cheapeſt in Monmouthſhire. It was a pleaſing amuſement to mix in theſe crowded meetings, to obſerve the frank and ſimple manners of the hardy mountaineers, and endeavour, in aſking the price of their proviſions, to extort a *Saxon* word from this *Britiſh* progeny. The women were moſtly wrapped in long cloth cloaks of a dark blue or brown colour; all of them wore mob caps neatly plaited over the forehead and ears, and tied above the chin; ſeveral had alſo round felt hats like thoſe worn by the men, or large chip hats covered with black ſilk, and faſtened under the chin. This head-dreſs gives an arch and lively air to the younger part of the ſex, and is not unbecoming.

The town principally owes its foundation and increaſe to the iron works eſtabliſhed by the family of Hanbury; it is likewiſe remarkable for the japan manufacture, known by the name of Pont y Pool ware. In the reign of Charles the ſecond, Thomas Allgood, a native of Northamptonſhire, came to Pont y Pool, and being a man of a projecting genius, made various experiments to extract copperas and oil from coal, and finally invented the method of lackering iron plates with a brilliant varniſh, in the ſame manner as the Japaneſe lackered wood; which was afterwards diſtinguiſhed by the name of Pont y Pool ware. Dying, however, before it was brought to perfection, his ſon Edward, who inherited his father's genius as well as his father's ſecrets, purſued the diſcovery with increaſing ſpirit, made conſiderable improvements, and finally eſtabliſhed a manufactory of japan ware, which was long unrivalled. This manufactory is ſtill carried on by his grandſon William, but on a leſs extenſive ſcale; its decreaſe is principally owing to the riſe of ſimilar eſtabliſhments in other places, and particularly at Uſk, under a branch of the family *.

Edward Allgood was the principal agent of major Hanbury, and aſſiſted him in directing and improving the iron works, particularly the wire manufactory, which was deficient in the method of poliſhing to that eſtabliſhed at Woburn in

* In 1761, Edward Allgood, with one of his brothers, grandſons of the firſt inventor, removed to Uſk, where they eſtabliſhed a japan manufactory, which I have already mentioned. This Edward is ſtill living at Uſk, in the 87th year of his age, and to him, through the medium of Mr. Morgan Davis, an ingenious young man employed in the manufactory, I am indebted for this account of the Allgood family.

in Bedfordſhire. For the purpoſe of diſcovering the ſecret, Edward Allgood repaired to Woburn, in the character of a beggar, and acting the part of a buffoon, gradually obtained acceſs to the workſhops, and was permitted to inſpect the various proceſſes, by which means he acquired the art of making the leys, the principal ingredient for giving a more brilliant poliſh to the iron wire, which was the only deſideratum in the Pont y Pool works.

The ſituation of Pont y Pool, near a region rich in mineral treaſures, in the midſt of forges and collieries, and at the head of the canal, render it peculiarly commodious for the eſtabliſhment of iron manufactories; and perhaps another generation may ſee a new Birmingham ſtart up in the wilds of Monmouthſhire.

Pont y Pool is in the manor of Lantarnam, and the town houſe was erected in 1730 by Mrs. Bray, joint lady of the manor with her ſiſter Miſs Morgan, which is commemorated by an inſcription in Engliſh and Welſh on the front.

The family of Hanbury, to whom the town owes its conſequence and celebrity, have long reſided at Pont y Pool park, in the vicinity; their anceſtors were formerly ſeated at Hanbury hall in Worceſterſhire, from which place they derived their name. According to the red book of the biſhopric of Worceſter, Roger de Hanbury was born there in 1125, and his deſcendant Galfridus, reſided there in the middle of the ſixteenth century. About the year 1500 the poſſeſſor diſinherited his brothers, and left the ſeat, and part of the eſtate to a natural daughter. Richard, the eldeſt, ſettled in London, and is diſtinguiſhed as one of the Goldſmiths' company, (for ſo the bankers were called) in the reign of Henry the ſeventh. His eldeſt ſon, Capel, purchaſed an eſtate at Pont y Pool, and was the firſt founder of the iron works. The earlieſt conveyance deeds are dated 1565, and a regular account of the ſale of iron commences in 1588. Neither he, or any of his immediate deſcendants, were permanently ſeated at Pont y Pool, but poſſeſſed landed property in the pariſh of Kidderminſter, in the county of Worceſter, where they ſeem to have reſided. They occaſionally repaired to Pont y Pool, for the purpoſe of inſpecting the iron works; and the initial letters of John and Richard, the ſon and grandſon

of Capel, together with the family arms *, are carved on the pulpit of the church, with the date of 1637.

Capel, the ſon of Richard, died in 1704, and was buried in the chancel of Kidderminſter church, under a flat ſepulchral ſtone, with this memorial:

" Here was laid the body of Capel Hanbury, eſq. May it reſt as he lived and " died in peace, in the 79th year of his age, 14th January 1704.

" With length of days he met his fate prepar'd,
" No murmurs, not a ſigh or groan was heard;
" That peace that dwelt within his honeſt breaſt,
" Has ſmooth'd his paſſage to eternal reſt."

His eldeſt ſon and heir John, uſually known by the name of major Hanbury, was born in 1664; after receiving a liberal education, and making a conſiderable proficiency in claſſical literature, he choſe the profeſſion of the law. He did not however long purſue his ſtudies in this line: he ſaid one day, to Mr. Jones of Lanarth, " I read Coke upon Littleton, as far as Tenant in Dower; but on the " ſuggeſtion of a friend, that I ſhould gain more advantage from the iron works " of Pont y Pool, than from the profits of the bar, I laid aſide Tenant in Dower, " and turned my attention to mines and forges."

In 1701 he married Albina Selwyn, daughter of John Selwyn, eſq. of Matſon, in the county of Gloceſter, with whom he obtained a conſiderable fortune. With this addition to his own property, he determined ſtill farther to improve the iron works at Pont y Pool, near which place he built a houſe, and fixed his reſidence.

His ſkill and indefatigable application were crowned with conſiderable ſucceſs; he increaſed the produce of the iron works, made many improvements in the machinery, invented the method of rolling iron plates by means of cylinders, and introduced the art of tinning into England.

By the intereſt of his wife's family, he was choſen, in 1701, member for the city of Gloceſter, which he continued to repreſent in the three ſucceeding parliaments. His wife dying without iſſue, he eſpouſed, in 1703, Bridget Ayſcough, eldeſt daughter of ſir Edward Ayſcough, knight, in the county of Lincoln;

* Or, a bend, engrailed, vert, cotiſed ſable.

Harding sc

MAJOR HANBURY

From an Original Picture in the Poſſeſſion of Capel H. Leigh Esq.r

Publiſhd Apr. 2.d 1800, by Cadell & Davies Strand

coln; ſhe was in high favour with the ducheſs of Marlborough *, and by this connection he acquired the protection of the duke, who honoured him with particular marks of confidence and eſteem.

On the acceſſion of George the firſt, he was choſen, on the independent intereſt, member for the county of Monmouth, which he continued to repreſent until his death. Although no ſpeaker, he diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a man of buſineſs, and was appointed chairman to ſeveral committees. During the reign of Queen Anne, and the early part of the reign of George the firſt, he uniformly voted with the whigs; but on the ſchiſm, which divided that party, he joined the body hoſtile to government, oppoſed the adminiſtration of ſir Robert Walpole, and his name appears among the members who voted againſt the exciſe.

In 1720 he obtained a conſiderable acquiſition of property; Mr. Williams, of Caerleon, who fled from his country for killing Mr. Morgan, of Penros, in a rencontre †, having received, on his return to England, great marks of attention and friendſhip from major Hanbury, ſtood godfather to his ſon Charles, and dying unmarried, bequeathed to him the bulk of his fortune, which exceeded £.70,000, under the condition of purchaſing eſtates, the proprietor of which ſhould aſſume the name and arms of Williams. In memory of his benefactor, Major Hanbury erected a monument in Weſtminſter abbey, with an elegant inſcription ‡, expreſſive of his regard and gratitude.

Soon after the failure of the South Sea ſcheme, when many of the directors were diſmiſſed, the integrity of his character, and his talents for buſineſs, recommended him to the proprietors, and he was appointed one of the new directors. At the ſame period, he had the honour of being one of the executors of his patron the duke of Marlborough's will. In gratitude for his faithful diſcharge of

* Among the family papers at Pont y Pool, are a few anecdotes of the ducheſs, written by Mrs. Hanbury.

† See p. 96.

‡ Carolus Williams
de Caerleon
In Agro Monmouth Arm.
Obit 29no. Die Augti. Ann. Dom. 1720.
Ætatis ſuæ LXXXVII.
Vir fuit verè Chriſtianus
Eccleſiæ Anglicanæ Fautor Eximius;
Patriæ Amans & Publicæ libertatis Vindex,
Erga Pauperes, præcipuè
Caerleonenſes ſuos.
Piè Liberalis;
In Amicos ſplendidè munificus,
In illum præſertim,
Qui Hoc grato Animo Monumentumo
Poſuit
I. H.

of that delicate office, the ducheſs of Marlborough preſented him with an elegant ſervice of plate, and his wife with a valuable ſet of jewels.

Before his death he purchaſed the eſtate of Coldbrook, and ſettled it on his ſon Charles, godſon of Mr. Williams, afterwards well known under the name of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams. He died highly reſpected, beloved, and lamented, in 1734, in the 70th year of his age. He left five ſons; John, who died in 1736 without iſſue; Capel, the anceſtor of the preſent poſſeſſor of Pont y Pool park; Charles; George, who ſucceeded to the eſtate of Coldbrook after the death of Charles; and Thomas, who died in 1778 without iſſue.

The widow of major Hanbury reſided at Pont y Pool until her death in 1741, when Capel inherited the eſtate. On the death of ſir Charles, without iſſue male, Capel had, by his father's will, the option of the Coldbrook eſtate, on the condition of relinquiſhing that of Pont y Pool to his brother George. A compromiſe, however, took place; Capel retained Pont y Pool, with £.23,000, the remainder of the legacy left by Mr. Williams, which had not been expended in the purchaſe of lands, and George ſucceeded to Coldbrook.

Capel, after repreſenting the borough of Leominſter, was ſeveral times knight of the ſhire for the county of Monmouth, and declined the offer of a peerage.

Capel dying in 1765, was ſucceeded by his ſon John, who likewiſe repreſented the county of Monmouth, until the time of his deceaſe in 1784; when the independent intereſt which had hitherto ſupported the family, was, by the minority of his ſon, diverted into another channel.

His eldeſt ſon John Capel, dying in 1795, the ſeat of Pont y Pool park, and the eſtate, were inherited by Capel Hanbury, eſq. the preſent proprietor, who has ſince aſſumed the name of Leigh, in conſequence of the will of the late lord Leigh *, deviſing his property to his next of kin male, bearing the name and arms of Leigh.

I was much indebted to Mr. Leigh, to whom I was introduced by my friend Mr. Greene, for a kind reception at his hoſpitable manſion of Pont y Pool park.

During

* His grandmother, the honourable Jane Tracy, eldeſt daughter of Thomas Charles, fifth lord Viſcount Tracy, was deſcended from Thomas, the firſt lord Leigh, by the female line of his firſt marriage.

During my continuance in this pleaſing abode, I was permitted to inſpect the intereſting correſpondence and papers of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, which highly gratified my curioſity, and have enabled me to throw a conſiderable light on the anecdotes of his life *.

Theſe papers compriſe great part of his official correſpondence during his embaſſies at Dreſden, Berlin, and Peterſburg; and many intereſting letters on the politics of the times, from ſome of his moſt confidential friends, particularly Mr. Fox, lord Cheſterfield, Mr. Rigby, and the late earl of Orford. Among theſe papers is a collection of his poems in manuſcript, particularly the original copy of Iſabella, or the Morning.

The manſion was partly built by major Hanbury towards the latter end of the laſt century, and partly by his ſon Capel; it is a comfortable houſe, but will ſoon be much improved and beautified by the preſent proprietor, in conformity with a judicious plan which is now carrying into execution.

In the poſſeſſion of Mr. Leigh are ſeveral family pictures, not unintereſting. Three portraits of major Hanbury, at different periods; the firſt when he was a young man, in a coat of mail, with his head bare; the ſecond middle aged; the third, in a red cap, in the latter part of his life, from which the engraving annexed to this chapter is taken. The firſt of theſe portraits exhibits a handſome and frank countenance, and the laſt diſplays even in old age an appearance of great ſpirit and vivacity. The head of his ſecond wife, Bridget Ayſcough; a half length of his ſon Capel; two portraits of the honourable Mrs. Hanbury, eldeſt daughter of lord viſcount Tracy, and wife of Capel; a three quarters, in crayons, of the late John Hanbury, eſq.; another of his wife Mrs. Hanbury, now Mrs. Stoughton, and their three infant ſons. Two portraits of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, one in full dreſs with the ribband and ſtar of the order of the Bath, the ſecond in a plainer habit, repoſing his cheek on one hand, and holding in the other his poem of Iſabella, or the Morning; this picture is well painted, and larger than that at Coldbrook. I noticed alſo a fine whole length portrait of ſir John Hanbury, knight, of Kilmarſh, in Northamptonſhire,

* Chapter 29.

who

who was deſcended from a collateral branch of the Hanburys, ſeated at Benehall*, in the county of Worceſter; he died in 1634, aged 65. A head of an old man in a blue night cap, though indifferently painted, muſt not be paſſed over in ſilence; it is the portrait of Mr. Williams of Caerleon, the friend of major Hanbury, and the great benefactor of the family.

Over the fire-place in the dining room is a painting which repreſents Sarah ducheſs of Marlborough, in a mourning habit, ſitting, with her daughter Anne, afterwards counteſs of Sunderland, clothed in white, and holding a baſket of fruit; Blenheim houſe appears in the back ground; the beautiful countenance of the ducheſs, and the elegant form of the young lady, are eminently conſpicuous. In the ſame apartment are ſeveral others, not undeſerving of notice; John duke of Marlborough, ſitting, with a truncheon in his hand; Frederick the ſecond, king of Pruſſia, a preſent from that monarch to ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, when embaſſador at Berlin; the earl of Strafford, who was beheaded in the reign of Charles the firſt, by Vandyke; Sir Robert Walpole, a copy from Vanloo; and Thomas Winnington, eſq. of Stanford court, Worceſterſhire, the friend of Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, a great ſupporter of the whig intereſt, and an active partiſan of Sir Robert Walpole. He filled the offices of lord of the admiralty and treaſury; was treaſurer of the navy and paymaſter of the forces, and died in 1747.

A connoiſſeur will not fail to admire two charming pictures by Morillo, a preſent from ſir Robert Walpole to Capel Hanbury; they repreſent two groupes of boys, with the nature and ſimplicity which characteriſe the works of that pleaſing maſter. Among ſeveral curious paintings, which Mrs. Leigh brought from Gnoll Caſtle in the county of Glamorgan, the ſeat of her late huſband ſir Robert Humphrey Mackworth, bart. is an Eſculapius, writing, ſaid to be by Vandyke, and a portrait on wood, of a handſome man in black armour, his head uncovered, with a ſcarf tied round his left arm, inſcribed with a motto *n'oblie point*; a battle and a ſiege are repreſented in the back ground. It bears the date of 1575, ætatis 35, and an inſcription, one word of which is illegible "pour ***** et

* Heralds' office, pedigree of the Hanburys of Benehall and Kilmarſh.

et ma patrie." It appears to be the portrait of Robert Dudley earl of Leiceſter, the weak and haughty favourite of queen Eliſabeth.

The manſion is ſingularly ſituated at the extremity of the grounds, a ſmall diſtance from the town, which (though ſeated on the perpendicular cliff, riſing from the oppoſite bank of the Avon) is ſo judiciouſly concealed by plantations of oak, beech, and poplars, that ſcarcely a ſingle houſe is diſcerned. The view is rendered formal by a kitchen garden, which occupies the interval between the front of the houſe and the torrent, and by an artificial terrace, in the ſtyle of the laſt age, not conſonant to the genius of the place. But theſe ſpecimens of falſe taſte will ſoon be removed; a lawn of verdure will gradually ſlope from the houſe to the torrent, and harmoniſe with the native beauties of the ſcenery.

The grounds are pleaſing, wild, and diverſified; a narrow lawn ſtretches from the houſe to the turnpike road at Pont y Moel; the weſtern boundary is the Avon Lwyd, which here ruſhes with its uſual rapidity; the left bank is flat, the right a perpendicular cliff, beyond which towers the bold and bare ſummit of the Mynydd Maen. On the oppoſite ſide of the vale the grounds riſe into abrupt eminences, clothed with hanging groves, and crowned with tufts of wood. The edge of this beautiful valley is ſkirted by a ſucceſſion of ancient oaks, beeches, and Spaniſh cheſnuts, which ſweep the lawn with their pendent and wide ſpreading branches. The upper part of the park is compoſed of gentle undulations ſwelling one above the other, and ſeparated by ſmall dingles; not a veſtige of art appears, no clumps, no avenues, no formal outlines; the whole ſeems moulded and planted by the hand of nature.

In company with Mr. and Mrs. Leigh, I had a pleaſant ride through the park and grounds to the folly, a ſummer houſe built by the late Mr. Hanbury, near the ſouthern extremity of the chain of hills, which ſtretch from Pont y Pool park, and terminate in the Blorenge. From this eminence, the wild and fertile parts of Monmouthſhire, the hills and dales, plains and mountains, are beautifully combined, and enriched with woodlands, which overſpread the country beneath and around to a conſiderable extent. No traveller ſhould quit Monmouthſhire without enjoying this ſingular and almoſt boundleſs proſpect.

The parish church of Pont y Pool, called Trevethin, is situated on an eminence at the distance of a mile from the town; a neat gravel walk ascends to it through the plantations of Pont y Pool park, which was begun at the expence of Mrs. Evans, daughter of the late curate, and is now maintained by subscription under her superintendence. The church consists of a square tower of stone, with white-washed battlements, a nave, a north aisle, and a chancel; it appears to be an ancient structure; the nave being separated from the aisle, by four low circular arches reposing on massive columns scarcely five feet in height. The chancel is divided from the church by a gothic arch, over which is inscribed "John Hanbury, Charles Rogers, mercer, churchwarden, 1730." On the pulpit I noticed an inscription in large old characters. "1637, God save the king, C. R. 13. J. H. A. H. R. H. A. H." which are the initial letters of John and Richard Hanbury and of their respective wives, with the arms of the family rudely carved.

At the eastern extremity of the northern aisle is a small chapel adjoining to the chancel, the cemetery of the Hanbury family. At the upper end is a sepulchral monument erected by his widow, to the memory of major Hanbury, and surmounted by his bust in marble well executed.

"HERE LIES THE BODY OF JOHN HANBURY, ESQ.
"OF PONT POOLE IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH,
"WHO BY HIS GREAT UNDERSTANDING AND HUMANITY
"MADE THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLACE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RICH AND HAPPY;
"AND THEY WILL TELL THEIR CHILDREN TO LATEST POSTERITY
"THAT HE WAS A WISE AND HONEST MAN.
"HE WAS CHOSEN IN EIGHT PARLIAMENTS,
"AND WAS KNIGHT OF THE SHIRE FOR THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AT
"HIS DECEASE.
"HE WAS APPOINTED BY THE GREAT DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH
"ONE OF HIS EXECUTORS TO HIS LAST WILL.
"HE MARRIED BRIDGET, DAUGHTER OF SIR EDWARD AYSCOUGH, OF
"KELSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN,
"BY WHOM HE LEFT FIVE SONS, JOHN, CAPEL, CHARLES, GEORGE,
"AND THOMAS.
"HE DIED THE 14 DAY OF JUNE 1734 IN THE 70 YEAR OF HIS AGE."

In

In the church yard is an epitaph in verſe which deſerves notice, becauſe it was compoſed by ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, in commemoration of a faithful agent:

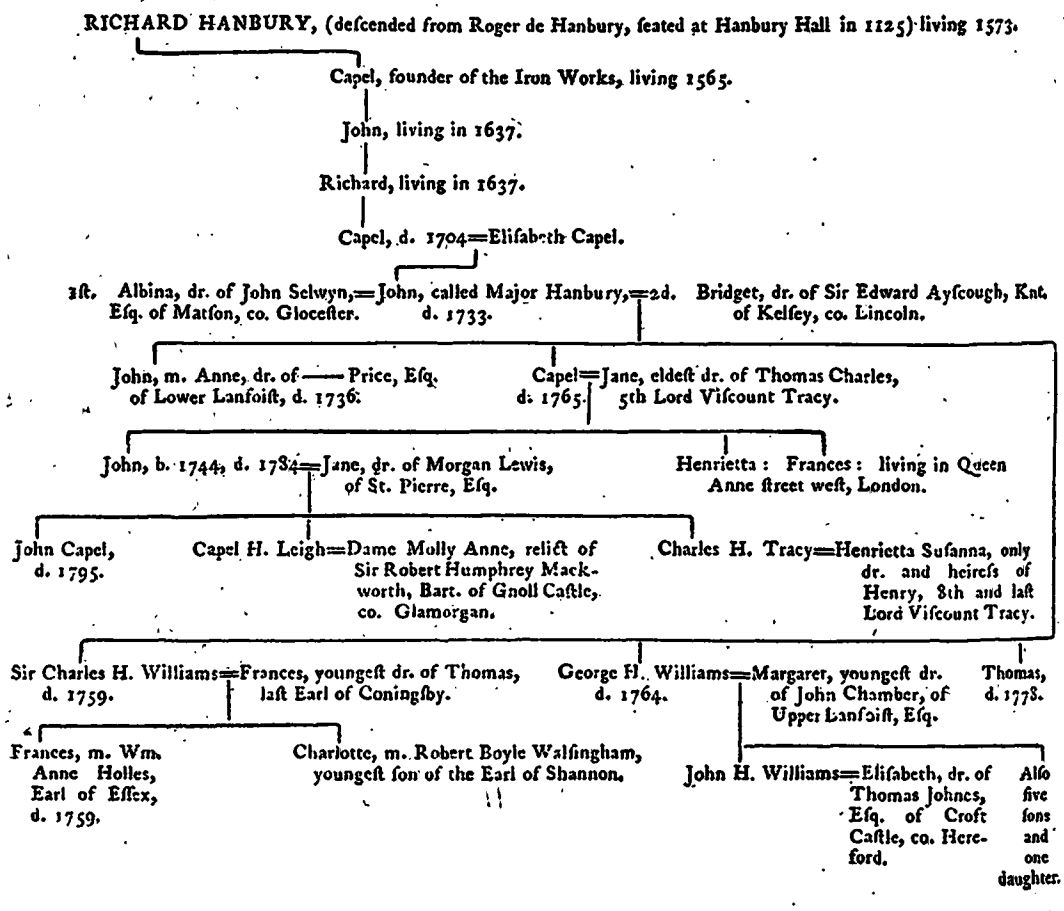
" TO THE MEMORY OF
" MR. THOMAS COOKE,
" AGENT OF THE IRON-WORKS
" TO JOHN HANBURY, ESQ.
" OF PONT Y POOL,
" WHO DIED AUGUST THE 1ST
" 1739: AGED 66 YEARS."

" WITH MOST RELIGIOUS TRUTH, IT MAY BE SAID
" BENEATH THIS STONE AN HONEST MAN LIES DEAD;
" VICE HE ABHORR'D, IN VIRTUE'S PATH HE TROD;
" JUST TO HIS MASTER, HUMBLE TO HIS GOD.
" USEFUL HE LIV'D, AND VOID OF ALL OFFENCE;
" BY NATURE SENSIBLE, WELL BRED BY SENSE;
" HIS MASTER'S INTEREST WAS HIS CONSTANT END;
" (THE FAITHFULL'ST SERVANT, AND THE TRUEST FRIEND)
" FOR HIM HIS HEART AND HAND WERE ALWAYS JOIN'D,
" AND LOVE WITH DUTY STRICTLY WAS COMBIN'D.

" TOGETHER THRO' THIS VALE OF LIFE THEY PASS'D,
" AND IN THIS CHURCH TOGETHER SLEEP AT LAST;
" FOR WHEN THE MASTER'S FATAL HOUR WAS COME,
" THE SERVANT SIGH'D AND FOLLOW'D TO THE TOMB.
" AND WHEN AT THE LAST DAY HE SHALL APPEAR,
" THUS SHALL HIS SAVIOUR SPEAK AND SCATTER FEAR:
" WELL DONE THOU FAITHFUL SERVANT, GOOD AND JUST,
" RECEIVE THY WELL DESERV'D REWARD OF TRUST;
" COME WHERE NO TIME CAN HAPPINESS DESTROY,
" INTO THE FULNESS OF THY MASTER'S JOY."

A proof of the rapid progreſs made by the Engliſh language in this place was imparted to me by the Rev. Mr. Williams, vicar of the pariſh. Since his firſt arrival at Pont y Pool, the ſervice was performed once in Engliſh, and three times in Welſh, and the greater part of the congregation ſcarcely underſtood Engliſh; at preſent the two languages are alternately uſed, and the Engliſh tongue predominates.

PEDIGREE OF THE HANBURY FAMILY.


RICHARD HANBURY, (deſcended from Roger de Hanbury, ſeated at Hanbury Hall in 1125) living 1573.
Capel, founder of the Iron Works, living 1565.
John, living in 1637.
Richard, living in 1637.
Capel, d. 1704=Eliſabeth Capel.
1ſt. Albina, dr. of John Selwyn, Eſq. of Matſon, co. Gloceſter.
John, called Major Hanbury, d. 1733.
=2d. Bridget, dr. of Sir Edward Ayſcough, Knt. of Kelſey, co. Lincoln.
John, m. Anne, dr. of —— Price, Eſq. of Lower Lanfoiſt, d. 1736.
Capel d. 1765.
=Jane, eldeſt dr. of Thomas Charles, 5th Lord Viſcount Tracy.
John, b. 1744, d. 1784=Jane, dr. of Morgan Lewis, of St. Pierre, Eſq.
Henrietta: Frances: living in Queen Anne ſtreet weſt, London.
John Capel, d. 1795.
Capel H. Leigh=Dame Molly Anne, relict of Sir Robert Humphrey Mackworth, Bart. of Gnoll Caſtle, co. Glamorgan.
Charles H. Tracy=Henrietta Suſanna, only dr. and heireſs of Henry, 8th and laſt Lord Viſcount Tracy.
Sir Charles H. Williams, d. 1759.
=Frances, youngeſt dr. of Thomas, laſt Earl of Coningſby.
George H. Williams, d. 1764.
=Margaret, youngeſt dr. of John Chamber, of Upper Lanfoiſt, Eſq.
Thomas, d. 1778.
Frances, m. Wm. Anne Holles, Earl of Eſſex, d. 1759.
Charlotte, m. Robert Boyle Walſingham, youngeſt ſon of the Earl of Shannon.
John H. Williams=Eliſabeth, dr. of Thomas Johnes, Eſq. of Croft Caſtle, co. Hereford.
Alſo five ſons and one daughter.

CHAPTER 26.

Excurſions from Pont y Pool into the Weſtern Parts of Monmouthſhire.—Vallies of the Great and Little Ebwy.—Aberyſtwith.—Nant y glo.—Lanhiddel.—Return to Pont y Pool.

IT is a remarkable circumſtance, that Monmouthſhire, which is the principal paſſage from England to South Wales, and much frequented by travellers for its antiquities and pictureſque beauties, ſhould be ſo little known: the rich and cultivated diſtricts, contiguous to the high roads, have not failed to attract notice; but the remoter parts have been ſeldom viſited and never deſcribed. Under this head may be compriſed the mountainous region, watered by the Avon Lwyd, Ebwy, Sorwy, and Rumney; ſtretching from Pont y Pool to the frontiers of Brecknockſhire and Glamorganſhire, and comprehending nearly one fourth of the county. This region, though rich in minerals, is ſuppoſed to be barren of objects, either intereſting or pictureſque, is therefore called the *Wilds* of Monmouthſhire, and ſeldom traverſed by the gentry, except for the purpoſe of growſe ſhooting. Impreſſed with the general prejudice, I neglected to explore it until my third tour; the populous diſtrict of Croſs pen Main, and the beautiful vales of the Ebwy and Sorwy, ſeen from the top of Twyn Barlwm, firſt arreſted my attention; my curioſity was ſtill further heightened by the aſſurances of Mr. Evans, that I ſhould find ſome Swiſs ſcenes in the Wilds of Monmouthſhire; and though the extreme badneſs of the weather in my laſt expedition ſhortened my ſtay in theſe mountains, I was not diſappointed in my expectations.

I made the firſt excurſion from Pont y Pool park, in company with the Rev. Mr.

Mr. Williams, vicar of Trevethin, who is maſter of the language, and well acquainted with the road. Departing from Pont y Pool, we paſſed along the ſide of the canal to Pont Newynydd, where a copious ſtream burſts from the ground, and after turning a mill, falls into the Avon Lwyd; we then quitted the rail road to Blaenavon, and rode up a ſteep and paved aſcent, which led through thick coppice woods, to the moors. We continued along the level ſurface of the ſummit, over a boggy diſtrict, producing heath and moſs, paſſed ſeveral women gathering various kinds of berries* common to moraſſes, and deſcried at a diſtance a group of ſportſmen who were ſhooting growſe, a ſpecies of game become extremely rare; the heath cock, which was not uncommon in the memory of perſons now living, is at preſent wholly extinct.

At the extremity of this moor we approached the deſcent leading to Cwm Tilery, and I was ſurpriſed with the view of an extenſive diſtrict well peopled, richly wooded, and highly cultivated, almoſt rivalling the fertile counties of England. Slowly deſcending from the dreary heath, we looked down with delight upon numerous vallies which abound with romantic ſcenery, and paſſed ſeveral rills bubbling from the ſides of the hill, and ſwelling the Tilery; beneath us at a diſtance we diſtinguiſhed the Little Ebwy, burſting through a deep, narrow, and woody glen, and only viſible by its foam gliſtening through the thick foliage.

At the bottom of the deſcent we croſſed the Little Ebwy over a ſtone bridge, and rode along a narrow and rugged path, winding round the precipitous ſides of the Beacon mountain, which are thickly clothed with underwood, and occaſionally tufted with hanging groves of oak, beech, aſh, and alder; the wild raſpberry twining in the thickets, and the ground overſpread with the wood ſtrawberry. The rapid torrent beneath was ſometimes half obſcured by the trees, and ſometimes re-appeared to view, as it bounded over its rocky channel, illumined by the rays of a mid-day ſun.

This valley is uſually called, from the torrent, Ebwy vach, or the vale of the Little

* Theſe berries are principally varieties of the Vaccinium, particularly Vaccinium *Myrtillus*, or Whortleberry; V. *Vitis Idea*, Red whorts; V. *Oxycoccos*, Cranberry.

Little Ebwy, but is denominated by the natives, the Valley of the Church; it is bounded on the eaſt by a ridge called Milvre Hill, which ſeparates it from the pariſhes of Lanfoiſt and Trevethin, and on the weſt by the Beacon mountain, which divides it from the valley of the Great Ebwy. At firſt it was extremely narrow, almoſt without a ſingle habitation; the foaming torrent filling the whole ſpace between the mountains. As we proceeded the vale expanded, and numerous farm houſes, with ſmall incloſures of corn and paſture, occupied the ſlopes of the eminences, and ſpread into the narrow plain on each ſide of the river; the whitened walls, and brown ſtone roofs of theſe detached dwellings, gave an air of neatneſs and gaiety to the ſurrounding landſcape.

Towards the extremity of the vale, we croſſed the Little Ebwy, over another ſtone bridge, to the church, which is beautifully ſituated in the midſt of fields, upon a gentle riſe overhanging the torrent. In our way we paſſed the Iſtwyth, a lively rill, which deſcends from a wooded dingle, and in a few paces falls into the Little Ebwy: this ſtream gives the name of Aberyſtwith to the ſcattered village, which is likewiſe called Blaenau Gwent, or the extremity of Gwentland.

The church is a handſome gothic building, with a ſquare tower, and is peculiarly ſtriking from its ſequeſtered ſituation and ſingular appearance; the outſide of the body and chancel, with the lower part of the tower, and its battlements, are whitened; the remaining part of the tower is of hewn ſtone uncoloured. The inſide conſiſts of a nave and a northern aiſle, ſeparated by five pointed arches on octagon piers. On the wall of the aiſle is a ſepulchral tablet, erected "to the memory of the late pious and reverend Morgan Jones, who died in 1771, in the 55th year of his age," with ſome rhapſodical verſes, ſavouring more of methodiſm than poetry:

"Salvation was his ſong,
"Free grace his only theme;
"He fled this meſheth howling vale;
"His eyes behold the gleam."

As there is no chancel, the communion table is placed in a ſmall receſs, at the extremity of the nave; over it is a whimſical group carved in wood, and painted;

two

two angels are repreſented, ſounding brazen trumpets, and between them a clergyman in his robes, holding an enormous trumpet in his hand, as if fatigued with blowing.

Near it is a wooden tablet, erected by a carpenter to the memory of his mother, wife of the Rev. Richard Edwards of this pariſh, with an inſcription written by himſelf, which I copied for its affecting ſimplicity.

"As virtues aſcribed to the dead
Are often perverted to flatter the
Living, yet juſtice demands this truth
That the deceaſed was a ſincere friend,
An affectionate ſiſter, a moſt indul-
gent and tender parent: To whoſe
Memory this is erected, by her ſon John, as a ſmall teſtimony of his
Gratitude and eſteem.
Thou ſacred ſpirit! that ſo ſudden fled,
From our abodes to mingle with the dead;
Of love and duty this ſad pledge receive;
'Tis all I can, and all a ſon can give."

In this church the ſervice is always performed in Welſh, and the Engliſh language is ſo little underſtood, that without the aſſiſtance of Mr. Williams the clerk would ſcarcely have comprehended my queſtions, or returned intelligible anſwers. The church yard contains eleven old yew trees, planted in the form of a ſquare along its four ſides, and incloſing the church in the middle; the largeſt was twenty-four feet in circumference, the ſmalleſt eleven and a half. As we were employed in meaſuring the trees, ſeveral of the natives crowded round us, without coats or waiſtcoats, ſome with red, and others with white flannel ſhirts; a mode of dreſs which perſons deſirous of magnifying common incidents into extraordinary circumſtances, affect to derive from the Romans.

By means of Mr. Williams, I enquired of a man in a red ſhirt, his reaſon for preferring that colour to white, and flannel to linen? he replied "it is warm and comfortable, prevents colds, and can be worn longer without waſhing." This

cuſtom of wearing flannel under-garments, is well adapted to mountainous regions, where the change of weather is frequently ſudden, and is particularly advantageous to labourers, and thoſe who work in the mines and forges, provided due attention is paid to cleanlineſs.

In deſcribing Aberyſtwith, I ought not, perhaps, to omit mentioning a ſingular publication which is pompouſly ſtyled, "A Geographical, Hiſtorical, and "Religious Account of the Pariſh of Aberyſtruth, in the County of Monmouth. "To which are added, Memoirs of ſeveral Perſons of note, who lived in the ſaid "Pariſh; by Edmund Jones;" printed in 1779. The author was a native of Aberyſtwith, and miniſter of a congregation of independants. His book contains a ſhort but clear topographical deſcription of the valleys of the two Ebwys, and of the Tilery; the ſtate of the independant congregations; a few biographical notices of ſome *gifted* perſons, and of his father and mother, and others who were "*converted unto God*;" he ſpeaks of his own converſion, and boaſts, with affected humility, of his own "*inſtrumentality**" in the revival of religion. But the moſt curious part of this ſingular work, is a rhapſody "*on the "apparition of fairies and other ſpirits of hell*," like a company of children, with muſic and dancing. He aſſerts, that they frequented the pariſh of Aberyſtwith, as much or more than any pariſh of Wales, and were particularly fond of Havodavel and Kevenbach, becauſe they were dry, lightſome, and pleaſant places, where they were often ſeen leaping, and making a waving path in the air. He ſeriouſly warns his countrymen not to think them happy ſpirits, becauſe they delight in muſic and dancing, or becauſe they are called in Monmouthſhire, "*Mothers' bleſſing, and Fair folks of the wood.*" He narrates ſeveral childiſh ſtories of people who heard them ſing, but could never learn the tune; who heard them talk, but could ſeldom diſtinguiſh the words; of many who were tormented and wounded by them, and of others who were tranſported through the air. He alſo gives an inſtance † of their apparition from his own experience, and enumerates

* "Another congregation was raiſed up in the "valley of the church, by the inſtrumentality of "unworthy me, in 1764, at Pen yr Llwin houſe, "where I was born."

† "If any think I am too credulous in theſe rela- "tions, and ſpeak of things of which I myſelf have "had no experience, I muſt let them know they are "miſtaken; for when a very young boy, going with "my

rates the names of ſome who profeſſed to cure the wounds inflicted by theſe hobgoblins. This whimſical publication would have been unworthy of notice, did it not ſhew the tendency of the people * in theſe mountainous and ſequeſtered regions, to credit ſuperſtitious tales, which formed the popular creed of our forefathers, and gave riſe to ſo much beautiful imagery in the effuſions of our beſt poets.

Quitting theſe haunts,

" Of goblins, wood-gods, fairies, elfs, or fiends †;

we aſcended the northern extremity of this delightful vale, and gradually advanced into a wild, dreary, and almoſt uninhabited diſtrict, among bleak hills and barren moors. From the top of the riſe we looked down on the works of Nant y glo, which once gave activity and life to this ſolitary region. In our deſcent we croſſed a ſmall but rapid ſtream, derived from the contiguous hills of Brecknockſhire, which forcing its way through a deep channel worn in the rocks, falls into the Little Ebwy, and gives to the place the appellation of Nant y glo, or the Cold Brook.

We called upon Mr. Hertford, ſon of one of the proprietors, whom I had caſually met at Pont y Pool, and who is ſettled with his family in this ſequeſtered ſpot. After refreſhing ourſelves with a hearty meal at his hoſpitable board, which

" my aunt, Elizabeth Roger, my mother's ſiſter, in " the day time, ſomewhat early in the morning, but " after ſun riſing, from Havodavel towards my fa- " ther's houſe, at Pen y Llwyn, at the end of the " upper field of Kae yr Keven, by the way-ſide " which we were paſſing, I ſaw the likeneſs of a " ſheepfold with the door towards the ſouth, and " over the door, inſtead of a lintel, the reſemblance " of a dried branch of a tree, I think of a hazel tree; " and within the fold a company of many people; " ſome ſitting down, and ſome going in and coming " out, bowing their heads as they paſſed under the " branch. It ſeemed to me as if they had been lately " dancing, and that there was a muſician among " them. Among the reſt, over againſt the door, I " well remember the reſemblance of a fair woman " with a high crown hat, and a red jacket, who " made a better appearance than the reſt, and whom I " think they ſeemed to honour: I have ſtill a pretty " clear idea of her white face and well formed counte- " nance. The men wore white cravats; and I always " think they were the perfect reſemblance of perſons " who lived in the world before my time; for there " is a reſemblance of their form and countenances " ſtill remaining in my mind." p. 75, 76.

* This belief muſt be very general in theſe parts, if half of what the author ſays is true. " I alſo rea- " ſonably apprehend that a well atteſted relation of " apparitions and agencies of ſpirits in the world, is " a great means to prevent the capital infidelities of " Atheiſm and Sadduciſm, which get much ground " in ſome countries; *for in Wales, where ſuch things* " *have often happened, and ſometimes ſtill do in ſome* " *places, tho' but ſeldom now, we ſcarce meet with any* " *who queſtion the being and apparition of ſpirits.*" p. 83.

† Faithful Shepherdeſs.

which the keenneſs of the mountain air, and a long ride from Pont y Pool, made us doubly reliſh, he kindly accompanied us to the works, conſiſting of two furnaces, ſeveral forges, a ſteam engine, and the neceſſary buildings and machinery for ſmelting and forging the iron ore, which abounds in the vicinity. They belong to Hill, Hertford, and company, and are held under a long leaſe from the owners of the Blaenavon works; they were finiſhed at a vaſt expence, in 1795; after being worked a year, were diſcontinued on account of a miſunderſtanding between the proprietors, and are haſtening to decay. A long range of ſtone cottages, built againſt the ſide of a rock, was conſtructed for the workmen; each cottage conſiſts of two ſtories, which form two tenements, without communication; the entrance to the lower part is in front, and the doors of the upper tenements open to a ledge behind, which is cut in the rock, and runs the whole length of the range. The diſcontinuance of the works impreſſed me with much regret, as they had already given a new life and ſpirit to theſe dreary regions, and would ſoon have fertiliſed the ſurrounding diſtrict. The reſidence, however, of Mr. Hertford, is attended with conſiderable advantage: the adjacent grounds have been cleared and cultivated, and an extenſive tract of moor, which formerly produced only heath and fern, has been converted into paſture, and yields excellent hay.

After thanking Mr. Hertford for his kind attention, we croſſed an elevated tract of moor, and paſſed round the northern extremity of a mountain, under a tumulus which crowns its ſummit, and is called the Beacon by the natives. The Beacon mountain, ſometimes called the Blaenau hill, is a narrow and elevated ridge, which ſtretches between the two branches of the Ebwy, and terminates near the point of their junction. The road which we had traverſed from Cwm Tilery to Nant y Glo, runs along the eaſtern ſide of the ridge, and that which we now entered near the iron works of Hertford, Partridge, and Company, paſſes under its weſtern ſide, through the vale of the Great Ebwy.

In a general deſcription this vale would appear ſimilar to that of the Little Ebwy; it is bounded by ranges of hills feathered with trees, and traverſed by a mountain torrent. Yet nature always preſents a different aſpect, and from rocsk,

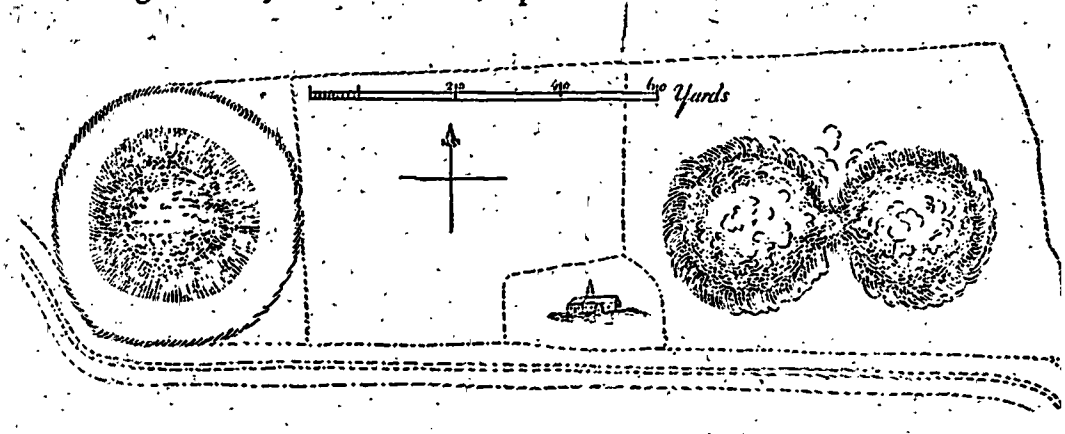
woods, and waters, forms endleſs combinations, which though ſimilar in deſcription, are varied in appearance. The ſcenery here is wilder, and more romantic, the plain narrower, the acclivities ſteeper, the torrent more rapid and confined, the woods more gloomy and impervious; the ſtreams pour through the glens, and ruſh down the hills in greater abundance, and there are fewer habitations. Art has alſo introduced a ſtriking difference: in the other vale, the path, continually aſcending and deſcending, ran along the rugged ſides of the Beacon mountain; here the way is a rail road carried over an artificial terrace, in a waving line near the edge of the banks overhanging the torrent. This way, though eaſy for travellers, and ſtriking from its curvilinear direction, appears uniform in compariſon with the rugged tracks worn in the other valley.

We continued along the road above five miles, and paſſed on our left two beautiful cwms or glens, opening on the weſtern ſide of the Beacon mountain, and watered by tranſparent rills, which fall into the Great Ebwy. The firſt called Cwm Mythve, from the little ſtream Mythve, is about a mile in length, and contains a few cottages and fields of paſture on its ſloping declivities in the midſt of ſurrounding thickets; the other, denominated Cwm Beeg, from the ſtream which daſhes through it, is ſhort, ſteep, and woody. A neat farm houſe, called Aberbeeg, ſtands in a romantic poſition at the extremity of this glen, at the point where the foaming waters of the torrent ruſh into the Great Ebwy. A little beyond the vale terminates, and the two branches of the Ebwy unite; a pictureſque ſcene, which I had neither time nor inclination to examine: the weather, which had hitherto favoured us, changed to rain, the evening approached, and we had ſtill a journey of ſeveral miles over the moors to Pont y Pool. I could only obſerve, as we mounted a ſteep aſcent to Lanhiddel, a narrow plain of rich meadows, divided into ſmall farms ſtretching on each ſide of the rapid Ebwy, and bounded by abrupt and wooded declivities.

At Lanhiddel we baited our horſes at a public houſe, and ſtrolled, in the midſt of a violent ſhower, to the church, which is ſituated on the ſummit; it is a ſmall

but ancient gothic building, conſtructed in the moſt ſimple form, without a tower or belfry, the bells being placed under the roof, and the ropes deſcending into the church. The church yard is planted with twelve old yew trees, which ſurround the church, and add to the ſolemnity of the ſcene: it is dedicated to St. Ithel, with whoſe merits and genealogy I am wholly unacquainted.

On the north-weſtern ſide of the church are the remains of a fortified poſt, conſiſting of a ſmall tumulus and circular entrenchment, which communicated with each other; within the latter are veſtiges of ſubterraneous walls, faced with hewn ſtone, and not leſs than nine feet thick; at a little diſtance to the weſt is a higher mound or barrow. Theſe are the remains of an ancient fortreſs, called Caſtell Taliurum by the natives, who could not explain the meaning, but ſaid it was neither Welſh nor Engliſh. Theſe words are ſuppoſed to be a corruption of Caſtrum Italorum; I have not been able to diſcover any traces of its founders or proprietors, yet the name has led ſanguine admirers of claſſic antiquity, to aſcribe its conſtruction to the Romans. According to the plan annexed, theſe remains do not bear a Roman character, but were probably erected by the Britons, and afterwards occupied and ſtrengthened by the Norman conquerors of Gwent.



We left Lanhiddel as the day was haſtening to its cloſe, and rode over the moors, expoſed to the pitileſs ſhower, with juſt light ſufficient to enable my companion

panion to ſteer his courſe through an uncertain and doubtful track. We fortunately reached the extremity of the common before it was quite dark, and deſcended to Pont y Pool, over the ridge of the Keven y Krîb, down a craggy path, which was rendered extremely ſlippery by the drenching rain. I was delighted on regaining at nine o'clock in the evening my comfortable quarters at Pont y Pool park, after a journey of fourteen hours.

CHAPTER 27.

Excurſion from Pont y Pool to Crumlin Bridge and Riſca.—Junction of the Great and Little Ebwy.—Valley of the Ebwy.—Newbridge.—Abercarn.—Riſca.—Excurſion from Riſca to Penllwyn.—Bydwellty.—Croſs Pen Main.

IN conſequence of the ſatisfaction I experienced in the expedition to Aberyſtwith, I waited with ſome impatience till the weather appeared ſufficiently ſettled, to continue my tour in the mountains. For ſeveral days it rained without intermiſſion, and I was apprehenſive that I ſhould quit the country without gratifying my curioſity. Fortunately the rain at length ſubſided, and I rode from Pont y Pool park, with a guide, procured by Mr. King, the civil and intelligent landlord of the red lion, who was formerly gamekeeper to lord Pembroke. I paſſed the town of Pont y Pool, croſſed the canal, and aſcended by the ſide of an impetuous and turbid torrent, along a rail road leading to ſome valuable iron works belonging to Mr. Leigh, ſituated in the midſt of a wood. I reached the ſummit of the aſcent at the extremity of a ſmall lake, forming the reſervoir of the canal, from which the torrent iſſues, and falls down the ſides of the ſteep in a ſucceſſion of cataracts; this lake is of an oblong ſhape, about two miles in circumference, and ſtretches along the foot of the north-eaſtern extremity of Mynydd Maen, which here terminates in an abrupt precipice; the upper part bare, heathy, and intermixed with crags; the middle and lower parts covered with trees, which overhang the tranſparent ſurface of the water. As I paſſed cloſe to its edge, I obſerved numerous trees ſtanding upright under the water, which had been partly covered by the increaſe of the reſervoir, and partly overflowed by the continual rains which prevailed in the ſummer of 1799.

A road

A road ſufficiently broad for carriages runs along a narrow and level defile between the Mynydd Maen and Keven y Krîb, amid wild and romantic ſcenery, enlivened by ripling ſtreams, which guſh from the ſides of the eminences, and flow towards the lake. Two miles from the entrance of the defile, the bleak mountain of Mynydd Maen trends to the ſouth, and is ſucceeded by a range of lower, but more fertile and wooded hills, broken by narrow dingles. In this ſequeſtered route we paſſed only a a ſingle cottage, until we aſcended a gentle riſe, and came to a ſecond reſervoir, which ſupplies the Crumlin branch of the canal; it is more uſeful than pictureſque, being an artificial piece of water, bounded by a ſquare embankment. Deſcending from the brow of this riſing ground, we croſſed a torrent, and followed the courſe of the ſtream, which iſſues from the reſervoir, down a gentle declivity, through meadows and corn fields, to Crumlin bridge, where the ſecond branch of the canal commences.

As the weather was delightful, and I had ample leiſure, I here left the guide, and rode along the valley to the junction of the two Ebwys, which I did not examine in my laſt excurſion. The ſcenery at the junction is moſt delightful; on one ſide the Great Ebwy ruſhes through the vale which I traverſed in my laſt excurſion; on the other the Little Ebwy, foaming through a hollow and narrow glen, emerges from a thick wood; theſe two branches daſh round the ſouthern extremity of the Beacon mountain, and unite at its foot.

Two ſtone bridges are thrown over the Little Ebwy, within a few paces of each other; one ſupports the rail road, the other was the common paſs before its conſtruction. I croſſed the latter, near which ſtands a ſtone cottage with a group of trees overhanging its roof, and walked through a grove of alders to another bridge over the Great Ebwy, from whence a path leads up the woody ſide of the mountain which bounds the valley. I remained for a conſiderable time leaning on the parapet of the bridge, abſorbed in contemplation of the pictureſque objects around me; objects that recalled to my recollection the milder caſt of mountain ſcenery, which I formerly ſo much admired in

the

the Alps of Switzerland, and drew a tear of ſympathy and regret for the fate of that once happy and delightful country *.

Slowly returning to the junction, I purſued my courſe along the banks of the Ebwy, which rolls on with an accumulated body of waters, and following the ſhape of the hills, bends in a gentle curve, as they project or recede. The vale is alternately expanded and contracted, and forms a ſucceſſion of oval plains; in ſome places it is wholly occupied by the torrent, and by the rail road running under precipitous rocks; in others it ſpreads into fields of corn and paſture, amidſt the variety and wildneſs of foreſt ſcenery. At the extremity of the vale I reached the canal, and paſſing on to Crumlin bridge, rejoined the guide, who was impatiently watching for my return.

From Crumlin bridge, I continued along the ſide of the canal to Riſca, and was as much pleaſed with the ſingularity of the views in this route, as I was affected with the romantic ſcenery in the ſequeſtered vale I had juſt quitted. The road over which I paſſed is the towing path, carried along a narrow ridge on the edge of the canal, and at the top of an elevated embankment. On the left, the canal winds at the foot of overhanging rocks, fringed with wood; below the Ebwy is ſeen from the elevation of forty or fifty feet, here pent up in a narrow gulph, there ſpreading its devaſtations in a wider channel: the contraſt between the tranquil waters of the canal, and the rapid eddies of the torrent, burſting through groves of alder and foaming over fragments of rock, is peculiarly ſtriking.

At Newbridge, ſo called from a bridge which croſſes the Ebwy, large quantities of coal are brought down a rail road, from the mines of Mynydd Yſlwyn, and conveyed by the canal to Newport. Between Newbridge and Riſca, numerous houſes, mills, forges, and hamlets, are ſcattered on the ſide of the canal, and on the banks of the Ebwy, and the whole valley becomes a ſcene of buſtle and activity.

I paſſed on the left not leſs than four of thoſe wooded glens which are frequent in theſe parts; they are called Cwms by the natives, and give a pleaſing diverſity

* Written in Auguſt, 1799.

diverſity to the uniform range of hills; rapid torrents ruſh down their hollows, and after ſupplying the canal, pour their ſuperfluous waters into the Ebwy; one of theſe, called Carn, which deſcends from Mynydd Maen, gives the name of Abercarn to the place where the principal iron works are ſituated. On the right the mountains are leſs broken with dingles; their lower parts are covered with underwood, and their heathy tops overhang and darken the torrent.

About two miles from Abercarn deſcending from the canal, I entered the ſtony road leading through the vale, which here expands to the breadth of half a mile, and is rich in wood, paſture, and corn.

In my way to Riſca, I croſſed a bridge over a rail road, lately formed by Mr. Edward Jones, who rents under Mr. Morgan of Ruperra ſome mines of lead, calamine, and coal, in Machen Hill, on the oppoſite ſide of the Ebwy. The expedition and ſecurity with which the cars are conveyed up and down the ſteep ſide of the precipice, appear ſingular to a ſpectator on the bridge. Two parallel rail roads are carried from the canal to the oppoſite ſide of the Ebwy, along which two cars are drawn up and let down at the ſame time, by means of an engine; they appear to paſs each other alternately, like buckets in a well; a boy deſcends with the empty car, nearly midway, and after adjuſting the machinery is again drawn up with the loaded car, which empties the coals into the boats of the canal.

Following the courſe of the Ebwy at a little diſtance from its banks, where it loſes itſelf in an abyſs of trees, and flows under the ſteep ſides of Machen Hill, heard but not ſeen, I reached Riſca, a village ſituated at the extremity of the vale, and under the precipitous crags of Twyn Barlwm. Having taken ſome refreſhment at a public houſe, and diſmiſſed the guide, I continued my journey to Caerau, where I did not arrive till late in the evening.

Anxious to complete my tour in the mountains, I quitted Caerau early next morning, in company with Mr. Evans, and returned to Riſca. Having breakfaſted, we mounted our horſes, rode along the vale, and croſſed the Ebwy near the influx of the Sorwy, over Pont y Cymmer; where I obſerved recent traces

of

of the terrible ravages occaſioned by the inundation of the torrent. Soon afterwards we aſcended the ſide of the hill, which bounds the vale, and continued along an elevated ridge, through thickets, corn fields, and meadows, ſprinkled with hamlets, watered by numerous torrents, and overlooking the Sorwy. The features of this vale are more wild and romantic than thoſe of the Ebwy; it is narrower and deeper; and the ſhelving declivities, laid out in meadows, ſtretch to the edge of the torrent, which roars in a profound abyſs, obſcured by overhanging trees. We paſſed under Caerllwyn, or the high place of the encampment, deſcended to the banks of the Sorwy, croſſed over a ſtone bridge, and went up a ſteep road, leading to Penllwyn, where we enjoyed a pleaſing view of the vale, which ſeemed to ſtretch in a ſemicircular direction.

Penllwyn Houſe, the ancient manſion of a collateral branch of the Morgan family, is delightfully ſituated on the brow of the eminence overhanging the Sorwy, in the midſt of arable and paſture grounds, which deſcend to the banks of the Rumney. The laſt male of this line was Henry Morgan, who died without iſſue in 1757. From his popularity and influence in theſe parts, he was called the king of the hills; and in a conteſted election has been known to pour down with a numerous body of voters, with whom theſe diſtricts were peopled. His name is ſtill mentioned with endearment, by thoſe who experienced his hoſpitality and benevolence, and their deſcendants are taught to revere his memory. On his death his ſiſter Florence conveyed the eſtate to her huſband John Jones, eſq. of Lanarth, and it now belongs to their grandſon.

The manſion is now a farm houſe, and contains few traces of its former occupiers, except two paintings; one repreſents a whole length figure of a man in a buff jacket, with a ſword pendent from a ſaſh acroſs his ſhoulders, holding a ſpear in his right hand; his head bare, and hair flowing, in the coſtume of the age of Charles the firſt; a boy with a beautiful countenance, in a red dreſs, is delivering to him his helmet; both have large boots and gilt ſpurs. The other picture repreſents a lady in a black hood and gown, with flaſhed ſleeves, ſitting; near her is the figure of the ſame boy, holding a ſpear in one hand, and her gloves

in the other. They are the portraits of a Mr. Morgan and his wife; he was of the Lantarnam family, and ſettled at Penros; the boy is their ſon, who was unfortunately killed by Mr. Williams of Caerleon. His only daughter married Edmund Morgan of Penllwyn; the father of Henry and Florence. Theſe pictures ſeem to be of the age and ſtyle of Dobſon, and are in good preſervation. The venerable appearance of this old manſion is much heightened by the ſhade of ſome tall and ſpreading ſycamores, which ſeem coeval with the building.

From Penllwyn, we walked acroſs ſome pleaſant meadows to Bydwellty place, a ſeat likewiſe belonging to that collateral branch of the Morgan family which was ſettled at Caerleon; to whoſe deſcendant, Miſs Morgan, it now belongs. It is alſo converted into a farm houſe; and exhibits remains of former ſplendor and antiquity, in ſeveral gothic arches and doorways.

In viſiting the farm houſes, as well in the hilly diſtricts as in other parts of Monmouthſhire, I was ſtruck with the enormous quantity of bacon with which they are ſtored, frequently obſerving ſeveral ranges of flitches ſuſpended from the cieling of the kitchen. Bacon is almoſt the only meat ſerved at the tables of the farmers, and with vegetables and the productions of the dairy, forms their diet. Thin oat cakes are a common ſubſtitute for bread, and the repaſts are enlivened by the cwrw, their national liquor, which the claſſic writers have dignified with the name of cerevitia, and which is immortalized in the ſongs of the bards; to deſcend to common language, it is new ale in a turbid ſtate, before it is clarified by fermentation. To perſons accuſtomed to clear and old malt liquor, this beverage is extremely forbidding to the ſight, and nauſeous to the taſte; but I had ſo much of the blood of the ancient Britons in my veins, that I ſoon became accuſtomed to their cwrw, and preferred it to our *Saxon* beer.

The principal articles of diet among the labourers, are oat cakes, potatoes, milk, and cheeſe, with an inferior ſpecies of cwrw. Almoſt every cottage is provided with a ſmall garden, and the greater part are even enabled to keep a cow, which ranges the commons for ſubſiſtence. The comforts of the cottager are increaſed by the abundance of fuel, either of coal or wood, which prevails in every part of the country; and the price of labour being the ſame as in moſt of the counties in

England,

England, with theſe additional comforts, the condition of the peaſantry in Monmouthſhire is very advantageous.

It is impoſſible to travel in Monmouthſhire without being ſtruck with the appearance of neatneſs and cheerfulneſs, which reſults from the cuſtom of white-waſhing the houſes; on account of the abundance of lime, this operation is annually performed, both within and without, and greatly contributes to the health of the inhabitants. The white colour of theſe dwellings, ſcattered along the ſummits and ſides of the hills, and ſurrounded with foliage of different hues, conſiderably heightens the pictureſque effect of the diverſified landſcapes.

From Bydwellty place we walked through the fields, till we remounted our horſes, and continued along a ſtrait broad road, which was in many parts pitched or paved with large flag ſtones, and exhibited occaſional veſtiges of an ancient cauſeway. In one of the introductory chapters I have fully deſcribed its appearance, and given the reaſons which induced me to believe that it was the ſite of a Roman way; it led us along the level ſummit of the mountain to Bydwellty church, ſituated on an eminence overlooking a fruitful expanſe of hill and dale, in the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, and Brecknock, which comprehends the rich vale of Carno; the diſtricts fertiliſed by the Rumney; the romantic vallies of the Ebwy and Sorwy; and the whole of the beautiful and undulating country I viſited in theſe excurſions. This varied and extenſive view ſtruck me with no leſs admiration than ſurpriſe; and I did not omit to expreſs my thanks to Mr. Evans for the pleaſure which I had derived from the wilds of Monmouthſhire. The church of Bydwellty is a gothic ſtructure of ſome antiquity; the ſquare embattled tower is built with brown rubble, and coigned with hewn ſtone; the battlements as well as the body are white-waſhed. The inſide conſiſts of a nave, a north aiſle, and chancel; the nave and chancel are ſeparated from the north aiſle by a range of low pointed arches, repoſing on maſſive columns, the ſhafts two feet eight inches in diameter, and not more than three feet and a half in height. It is dedicated to St. Sannan, another Welſh ſaint, of whoſe lineage and merits I am ignorant, and is, with Bedwas, held in commendam by the ſee of Landaff. The church yard is ſurrounded

rounded with veſtiges of ancient entrenchments, but are ſo much effaced by the plough, that their exact form cannot be aſcertained.

A lane winds down the ſteep ſides of a rugged declivity to the banks of the Sorwy, where a bold ſtone bridge of a ſingle arch is thrown over its rocky channel. The view from the bridge is peculiarly wild; the glen diminiſhed to a hollow between lofty and ſteep eminences covered with foreſts, is wholly occupied by the impetuous torrent. In this ſolitary ſpot, a peaſant has fixed his cottage, and cleared a ſmall piece of paſture ground on the edge of the river. From the bridge we mounted the oppoſite eminence, and paſſed through the diſtrict of Croſs pen Main, which exhibits a ſucceſſion of farms and cottages, ſometimes detached and ſometimes in ſmall groups. The greater part of the inhabitants are freeholders, and their dwellings diſplay an appearance of comfort and independence which is highly pleaſing. In the midſt of the hamlet is a ſmall but neat public houſe, where ſportſmen, who frequent theſe mountains for growſe ſhooting, are accommodated for the night. About half a mile farther, the road divides, near the brow of the eminence overlooking the Ebwy; Mr. Evans followed the branch leading by Newbridge to Riſca, and I deſcended a ſteep road, covered with looſe ſtones like the bed of a torrent, towards Crumlin bridge, enjoying the proſpect of the vale from Newbridge to the junction of the two rivers.

I had frequently experienced the good effects of Mr. Evans's interpoſition with the natives who were unacquainted with Engliſh, but I never felt greater regret at his abſence than when I called at the public houſe: the only perſon within was an old woman, who in reply to my requeſt of refreſhment for myſelf, and corn for my horſe, repeatedly anſwered " dim Saeſonaeg" or no Engliſh. After ineffectual attempts to make myſelf underſtood, I fortunately articulated cwrw, which brought a ſmile on her countenance, and a mug of ale on the table; ſtill, however, I was without refreſhment, and my horſe without corn, and we had faſted nearly twelve hours. While I was meditating whether I ſhould ſeek another public houſe, or continue my journey to Pont y Pool, I was relieved from my embarraſſment by a labourer, who called for a mug of cwrw; as he

ſpoke

ſpoke both Engliſh and Welſh, he explained my wants; I made a hearty meal on ſome toaſted bread and cheeſe, the *rare bit* of the country, and divided the ewrw with my horſe; I took the liquor, and he the grains, the only provender to be obtained in the place. Our reſpective meals did not detain us long; I croſſed Crumlin bridge, and continued to Pont y Pool park, along the ſame defile which I before traverſed, the pleaſing ſcenery of which was ſoftened by the gleams of the moon ſhining on the ſurface of the lake at the eaſtern extremity of the vale.

CHAPTER 28.

Road from Pont y Pool to Abergavenny.—Mamhilad.—Lanover.—Church.—Ancient Families of Cecil and Rumſey.—Excurſions to Coed y Prior and Goytre.

IN my way from Pont y Pool to Abergavenny, I croſſed the Avon Lwyd, over a bridge called Pont y Moel, at the extremity of Mr. Leigh's park, and in a mile entered the high road leading from Newport to Abergavenny*. Soon afterwards I paſſed the church of Lanvihangel Pont y Moel, and a farm called Great Monkſwood, which was formerly a religious houſe belonging to the abbey of Tintern, and preſerves the appearance of its former condition in its gothic doorways. A little beyond the road divides; one branch leads to Uſk by Little Monkſwood farm and chapel, at the foot of wooded eminences; the other, which I followed, turns to the north, and proceeds ſtrait to Mamhilad, a village with a ſmall gothic church, which is a chapel of eaſe to Lanover. The church yard contains no leſs than twelve fine yew trees, of which the girth of the largeſt was twenty-five feet.

From Mamhilad the road continues in a rectilinear direction; leaves the grounds of Mr. Waddington, at Lanover, on the right, croſſes the Uſk at Lanellen, over a wooden bridge, and joins the high road from the New Paſſage, Uſk, and Monmouth, oppoſite Coldbrook houſe, about a mile from Abergavenny. Of all the roads I traverſed in this delightful country, part of this from Pont y Pool to Abergavenny is not the leaſt intereſting; the country is gently waving, ſlopes gradually into the vale of the Uſk, and for a conſiderable way commands the ſerpentine courſe of that beautiful river. It is ſkirted on the weſtern ſide by a chain of undulating hills, commencing with the rich eminence of

* At this point the diſtances from ſeveral parts of the county are marked on a flat ſtone.

	Miles.		Miles.
From Pont y Pool	1	Monmouth	19
To Uſk	6	Chepſtow	20
Caerleon	7	New Paſſage	20
Newport	9	From London	148
Abergavenny	9		

Edwd Palmer del.

VIEW from Mr. WADDINGTONS GROUNDS

Harding sc

Blorenge Sugar Loaf Little & Great Skyerid

Pub. 20 July 1800. by Cadell & Davies Strand.

of Pont y Pool park, mantled with wood, and interſperſed with occaſional fields of corn and paſture, till they approach the naked ridge of the Blorenge.

Lanover houſe, the ſeat of Benjamin Waddington, eſq. is ſituated to the right of the high road, nearly midway between Pont y Pool and Abergavenny. In this delightful ſpot I conſtantly experienced a kind and hoſpitable reception, and paſſed much of my time during my continuance in Monmouthſhire; the commodious diſtance from Abergavenny, Lanſanfraed, Clytha, Uſk, and Pont y Pool park, enabled me to enjoy the ſociety of my friends, while I was exploring the beauties of the adjacent country.

The pariſh of Lanover, comprehending an extenſive diſtrict, ſtretches beyond Blaenavon and Pont y Pool, and is the mother church of the chapels of Trevethin, Mamhilad, and Capel Nywydd.

The houſe ſtands on a gentle riſe, near the torrent Rhyd y Mirch, which falls from the neighbouring hills, and ripling through the grounds, haſtens towards the Uſk. In the front the rich meadows ſink into an oval vale, interſected by the meandering Uſk, and ſkirted by a range of gentle elevations, dotted with numerous ſeats churches and hamlets; beyond theſe riſe in a grand ſucceſſion, hills and mountains which combine the varieties of light and ſhade, and vie in the contraſt and ſingularity of their forms. The extremity of the vale is cloſed by the Clytha hills, mantled with wood; the elegant and wooded ſwell of the Little Skyrrid is backed by the majeſtic top of St. Michael's mount; the gloomy and irregular maſs of the Black mountains bound the diſtant horizon; to theſe ſucceed the ruſſet ſummits of the Gaer and Brynaro, the four Pen y Vale Hills, which form beautiful undulations above the town of Abergavenny, and are crowned by the Sugar Loaf. Beyond the Sugar Loaf, the perſpective of the Vale of the Uſk terminates in the rugged crags in the vicinity of Crickhowel; oppoſite, towers the magnificent Blorenge, and joins the chain of hills which ſtretch to Pont y Pool.

In no part of Monmouthſhire are the forms of theſe mountains more beautifully contraſted: the flowing outline of the Sugar Loaf here preſented itſelf with peculiar effect, particularly at the cloſe of evening, when the ſun gradually declines behind the Blorenge; the valley was immerſed in ſhade, the hollows be-

tween the mountains filled with luminous vapour, and the ſummit tinged with a purple hue, till

" Twilight grey
" Had in her ſober livery all things clad."

The church of Lanover ſtands in a romantic poſition, on the banks of the Uſk, about half a mile from the houſe; it is a handſome gothic edifice, conſiſting of a high embattled tower of hewn ſtone, a nave, and a chancel, and by the care of Mr. Waddington is kept in an extraordinary ſtate of order and neatneſs. On examining the ſepulchral inſcriptions, I was ſtruck with a ſingular inſtance of that pride of anceſtry for which the Welſh were formerly diſtinguiſhed, which excited emulation in the age of chivalry, and furniſhed themes of never failing incenſe to the bards of yore:

" Here

LANOVER CHURCH

" Here lyeth the bodies of William Prichard,
" Of Lanovor, Eſquier, and of Matthew Prichard,
" Of Lanovor, Eſq. His ſonne and Heire lineally
" Deſcended from the Bodye of Cradocke
" Vraich vras Earle of Hereford and Prince
" Betweene Wye and Seaverne."

The creſt of the Prichard family is likewiſe carved at the back of their pew; a wiverne's head, eraſed, holding in the mouth a hand couped at the wriſt, with an inſcription: " The armes of M. P. of Lanovor, Eſquier." This ancient family reſided at Lanover Court, in this pariſh, now a farm houſe, and were ſucceeded by the Rumſeys, who unable to derive their origin from a knight of the round table, and a companion in arms of king Arthur, yet yielded unwillingly the palm of deſcent to their predeceſſors. At the back of the ſame pew is a dexter hand graſping a ſword, with an inſcription: " The armes of Water Romſey " of Lannovor, Eſquier, Linealie deſcended from the Bodie of Sir Water Rumſey, " Knight, Lord Baronet of the Lordſhippe and Town of Rumſey in Hampſhire."

Theſe inſcriptions are ſtrikingly contraſted with the modeſt epitaph of a deſcendant of the great Cecil family:

" Here under lyeth ye Body
" of Walter Cecil: Eſq. who depart
" ed this Life ye 18. day of April,
" Anno Dom. 1754. Aged 69 years."

The ſhield of arms * alone marks his affinity to the earls of Exeter and Saliſbury; their common anceſtor, Robert Sitſylt † or Cecil, aſſiſted Robert Fitzhamon in the conqueſt of Glamorgan; his deſcendant Richard, lord of Altyrynnis, left two ſons, Philip, and David ſeated at Stamford in Lincolnſhire, and anceſtor of the earls of Saliſbury and Exeter. Philip, the eldeſt ſon, was proprietor of Altyrynnis, and his deſcendants had large poſſeſſions in Herefordſhire and Monmouthſhire. Walter, here interred, was the laſt of this family who poſſeſſed Lanover houſe; he was great grandfather to Mr. Cecil, of the Duffrin near Groſmont, and commiſſioner of

* Barry of ten argent and azure; over all ſix eſcutcheons, three, two, and one, ſable, charged each with a lion rampant, argent: the ſame arms are emblazoned in the windows of the old manſion at Altyrynnis; and are alſo borne by the marquis of Saliſbury and the earl of Exeter.

† Dugdale's Baronage, art. Cecil.

of the ſtamps at Monmouth, who ſold it in 1786 to Mr. Sever, of Bromyard in Herefordſhire, from whom it was purchaſed a few years ago, by Mr. Waddington.

A pleaſant road runs from Lanover church, along the right bank of the rapid and limpid Uſk, to the village of Lanellen, which derives its name from the church, dedicated to St. Ellen. A wooden bridge is thrown acroſs the river, which, like all mountain torrents, is here peculiarly ſubject to ſudden inundations; I croſſed it one evening in my way to Abergavenny, during the rainy autumn of 1799, confined in a deep and narrow channel; but in returning on the following morning, the ſtream had riſen to ſo great a height, that I paſſed it with the utmoſt difficulty. The current poured with violence through the hollow roads in the vicinity of the bridge, overflowed the hedges, and ſpread its devaſtations far and wide: in ſeveral places the water reached my horſe's girths, and had I delayed my return an hour, the bridge would have been utterly impaſſable. This inundation, however terrible to the natives, added greatly to the beauty of the ſcenery; as I rode along the ſlope of the hills, overhanging the vale, the Uſk appeared ſwollen into an expanſe of waters, as broad as a lake, and as impetuous as the Rhine or the Danube iſſuing from the mountains of Switzerland.

Next to the Sugar Loaf, the principal feature of the variegated landſcape, in the environs of Lanover, is the weſtern chain of hills which extend to Pont y Pool. On a general view, and at ſome diſtance, they appear to form a continuous and uniform ridge; but are a ſucceſſion of eminences, ſeparated by dingles, which are clothed with thickets, and watered by lively torrents. The Blorenge, ſo often mentioned, forms the northern extremity of this chain, and its termination is eaſily diſtinguiſhed, by the bare and hoary ſummit, from which its characteriſtic appellation is derived *. The hills, which ſucceed to this bleak mountain, exhibit an undulating ſurface, thickly mantled with wood, form a pleaſing back ground in every point of view, and reſemble, more than any I have hitherto ſeen in England, the hills in the lower regions of Switzerland.

In one of our morning excurſions, Mr. Waddington conducted me to the ſummit of the Coed y Prior, or Priory Wood, a ſmall undulating eminence at the foot of the Blorenge. It derives its name from a wood on the top and ſides, which formerly belonged to the priory of Abergavenny, and is now in the poſſeſſion of

* Blawr rheng, or the hoary ridge.

of Mr. Swinnerton; from its ſituation, it might with more propriety be called the Little Blorenge. About half a mile from Lanover houſe, we croſſed Nant Organ, a rapid ſtream, and gently aſcended the left bank as it ruſhed down the wooded declivity. Several receſſes of paſture on the margin of the limpid torrent, embowered in wood, convey a ſtriking reſemblance of Alpine ſcenes.

This eminence is ſeparated from the Blorenge, by a dingle watered by lively rills that deſcend into the Uſk. In our progreſs we ſometimes paſſed through deep thickets, at other times croſſed open commons, covered with fern and heath, until we reached the higheſt point, over which lowers the bleak top of the Blorenge, and which commands an intereſting view of that faſcinating combination of hill and dale, plains and mountains, which I have ſo often attempted to deſcribe.

In company with Mr. Waddington, I alſo made ſeveral excurſions into the diſtrict, to the ſouth-eaſt of Lanover, between the high road and the town of Uſk, which deſerves to be viſited for its ſingular wildneſs. The hamlet of Goytre, or Coedtrev, in the midſt of this region, derives its appellation from the foreſts with which it is ſurrounded, and abounds with delightful receſſes and pleaſant glades dotted with white cottages. Mr. Waddington remarked, that this diſtrict continually reminded him of the wilds of America; and in the courſe of our rides, pointed out to me a houſe recently built by a gentleman, who paſſed great part of his life on the other ſide of the Atlantic, and choſe this ſequeſtered ſpot, from its ſtriking reſemblance to the ſcenes which were familiar to him from his infancy.

The hamlet is a collection of ſcattered cottages, placed at conſiderable diſtances from each other. A farm houſe adjoining to the church bears the appearance of a decayed manſion, and is almoſt the only object in the vicinity. The ſituation of the church itſelf, ſtanding on a riſe, and emboſomed in the wood, is no leſs picturesque than that of Lanover, though of a different caſt; the ſimplicity of the form, without a tower, and in the early ſtyle of gothic architecture, accords with the ſurrounding ſcenery.

The few bye-roads, which interſect this tract, are ſtrait, deep, narrow, and ſtony, and exhibit occaſional traces of paved cauſeways, which prove that it was formerly more frequented than at preſent.

CHAPTER 29.

Coldbrook Houſe.—Proprietors.—Anecdotes of Sir Charles Hanbury Williams.

COLDBROOK houſe, in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny, is diſtinguiſhed for the reſidence of two perſons equally memorable in their time, though for different qualifications; the one ſir Richard Herbert, whoſe character I have before delineated, the intrepid ſoldier and flower of chivalry; the other, ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, the poliſhed courtier, and the votary of wit and pleaſure.

On the death of ſir Richard Herbert, the eſtate and manſion of Coldbrook came to his eldeſt ſon ſir William, and continued in his deſcendants, the ninth of whom, ſir James Herbert, dying in 1709, without iſſue male, the eſtate and ſeat were conveyed by Judith, his ſole daughter and heireſs, to her huſband ſir Thomas Powell, of Broadway, in the county of Caermarthen, one of the juſtices of the court of king's bench. On their death without iſſue male, the fortune was divided between their three daughters: the landed property was ſold; the eſtate and manſion of Coldbrook were purchaſed by major Hanbury *, of Pont y Pool, and ſettled on his third ſon Charles, who, in conſequence of the will of his godfather Charles Williams eſq. of Caerleon, aſſumed the name of Williams, and is well known under the appellation of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams.

Charles Hanbury (Williams) was born in 1709, and educated at Eton, where he made conſiderable progreſs in claſſical literature; and having finiſhed his ſtudies, travelled through various parts of Europe. Soon after his return he aſſumed the name of Williams, obtained from his father the eſtate of Coldbrook, and eſpouſed, in 1732, lady Frances Coningſby, youngeſt daughter of Thomas earl of Coningſby.

On

* See p. 238

Sr CHARLES HANBURY WILLIAMS

From an Original Picture in the possession of the Revd Duncan Davies Monmouth.

Published 1 May 1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand.

On the death of his father in 1733, he was elected member of parliament for the county of Monmouth, and uniformly ſupported the adminiſtration of ſir Robert Walpole, whom he idoliſed: he received from that miniſter many early and confidential marks of eſteem, and in 1739 was appointed by him paymaſter of the marines. His name occurs only twice as a ſpeaker, in Chandler's Debates; but the ſubſtance of his ſpeech is given in neither inſtance.

Sprightlineſs of converſation, ready wit, and agreeable manners, introduced him to the acquaintance of men of the firſt talents; he was the ſoul of the celebrated coterie, of which the moſt conſpicuous members were, lord Hervey, Winnington, Horace Walpole (late earl of Orford) Stephen Fox (earl of Ilcheſter) and Henry Fox (lord Holland) with whom in particular he lived in the ſtricteſt habits of intimacy and friendſhip. At this period he diſtinguiſhed himſelf by political ballads remarkable for vivacity, keenneſs of invective, and eaſe of verſification. He did not, however, confine his ſatire to politics, but deſcended into private life; with much wit and little delicacy, he wrote a ſevere lampoon on the marriage of Mr. Huſſey, afterwards lord Beaulieu, with Iſabella, daughter and heireſs of John duke of Montague, and widow of William duke of Mancheſter, whoſe exquiſite beauty attracted general admiration:

"Wide was the extent of her commands,
"O'er fertile fields, o'er barren lands
"She ſtretch'd her haughty reign:
"The coxcomb, fool, and man of ſenſe,
"Youth, manhood, age, and impotence,
"With pride receiv'd her chain*."

The ode was written in 1743, ſoon after the marriage, and confined to the peruſal of his intimate friends; but copies being indiſcreetly circulated, it became public in 1746, to the chagrin and diſſatisfaction of the author.

Mr. Huſſey bore the ſevere attack with great forbearance; but the Hibernian ſpirit was rouſed by the illiberal ſatire againſt the whole nation:

"Nature

* Ode to Henry Fox, eſq. on the marriage of the ducheſs of Mancheſter.

" Nature indeed denies them ſenſe;
" But gives them legs, and impudence,
" That beats all underſtanding;"

and ſeveral Iriſh gentlemen in London ſeem to have entered into a combination to challenge the author. To avoid a ſucceſſion of duels, by the advice of his friends, he prudently retired into Monmouthſhire, though he did not himſelf entertain ſerious apprehenſions of danger *. His abſence, and the intervention of friends, cooled the anger of thoſe whom his ſatire had provoked, gave them time to reflect on the abſurdity of converting a national into a perſonal quarrel, and their cauſe was juſtly avenged by ſeveral counter lampoons, which vied with his own in ſprightlineſs and wit †.

In 1746 he was inſtalled knight of the bath, and ſoon after his return to London, appointed envoy to the court of Dreſden; a miſſion which his lampooners

* Theſe facts are principally drawn from a letter written to him by his friend Mr. Fox, which is preſerved in the collection at Pont y Pool:

War Office, Sept. 6. 1746.

" My dear ſir Charles,

You may well wonder I have not wrote to you, but I have thought ſo much about the ſcrape your laſt ode has been like, and may ſtill be like to draw you into, that I could not write without endeavouring to inform you of the truth, and have not yet been able to get at the truth of the various reports that have been made about it.

What is certain, I believe, is that Huſſey came to Holland houſe to enquire for you ſome hours after you went. You know I thought it natural that he might expoſtulate with you about it; but as he actually ſet out for Ireland laſt Sunday, to ſtay at leaſt till May, I thought it certain, and ſtill think that reſentment muſt drop and be forgot. But it has been too ſtrongly to have no grounds reported, that the Iriſh (to ſhew they have underſtandings) have determined to make an irreconcileable quarrel of it; and that a dozen or fourteen had entered into mutual promiſes that the firſt who met ſhould affront you; and farther, that one Mr. Mervin had promiſed Mr. Huſſey to be his proxy in the quarrel as ſoon as you ſhould come to town. You may laugh at all this; but I do aſſure you at the ſame time, that every body ridicules and condemns it. Your ſerious friends, and I in the firſt place, think it puts you in a diſagreeable ſituation, and I am heartily and exceſſively concerned about it.

Lord Harrington will talk to Dumville about it, and thinks as I do, and other pains will be taken to bring theſe gentlemen to better ſenſes than their own; and I flatter myſelf that it ſubſides, and the ridicule of making a perſonal quarrel of a national reflection, muſt be acknowledged. I have heard too, that Mr. Mervin ſays his aſking for you at White's was as Mr. Huſſey's meſſenger, not on his own account.

But I ſtill think you will run riſque of being affronted, though the abſurd engagement to challenge you they will be aſhamed of; and what good telling you all this does, I don't know. But you can't imagine how very uneaſie I have been and ſhall be about it till I am ſure 'tis all over."

† " Stop, ſtop, my ſteed, hail Cambria, hail, &c."
" Who's that, what, Hanbury the lyric, &c."

lampooners imputed to cowardice *, but which he attributes to a nobler motive; his affliction for the death of his friend Mr. Winnington, which threw him into a temporary fit of deep melancholy, and conſiderably affected his health. An epitaph † which he compoſed to his memory, is written with much feeling, and a letter to ſir Thomas Robinſon on that event, does honour to his friendſhip.

"I am here a good deal retired, and in a melancholy way, which I have been in ever ſince the death of my friend Mr. Winnington, in whom my country loſt an uſeful citizen, and I the man upon earth I lovd the beſt. 'Twas upon his death I begd the king to ſend me abroad, and reſigned a very profitable employment to come out of a country where I miſsd an object that I eſteemd and honourd very highly, and where every thing daily put me in mind of him. When he dy'd he had much the beſt intereſt of any man in England with the king; and had three times in one day returned the chancellour's of the exchequer ſeal into the king's hand, who wou'd fain have forc'd it upon him; but he was ſteady to his friends, and the cauſe in which he had embark'd, and proof againſt the temptation of power itſelf ‡."

The votary of wit and pleaſure was inſtantly transformed into a man of buſineſs, and the author of ſatirical odes penned excellent diſpatches. He was well adapted for the office of a foreign miniſter, and the lively no leſs than the ſolid parts of his character, proved uſeful in his new employment: flow of converſation, ſprightlineſs of wit, politeneſs of demeanour, eaſe of addreſs, convivialty of diſpoſition, together with the delicacy of his table, attracted perſons of all deſcriptions. He had an excellent tact for diſcriminating characters, humouring the foibles of thoſe with whom he negotiated, and conciliating thoſe by whom the great were either directly or indirectly governed.

In 1749 he was appointed, at the expreſs deſire of the king, to ſucceed Mr. Legge as miniſter plenipotentiary to the court of Berlin; but in 1751 returned to his embaſſy at Dreſden. During his reſidence at theſe courts, he tranſacted

* "Think you, becauſe you baſely fled,
"To Saxony to hide your head,
"On odes you ſtill may venture?" &c.

† See ſir Charles H. Williams's Odes.
"Near his paternal ſeat, here buried lies, &c."

‡ Grantham papers. Dreſden, July 10, N. S. 1747.

tranſacted the affairs of England and Hanover with ſo much addreſs, that he was diſpatched to Peterſburg, in a time of critical emergency, to conduct a negotiation of great delicacy and importance.

The diſputes concerning the limits of Nova Scotia, and the poſſeſſions in North America threatened a rupture between Great Britain and France; hoſtilities were on the point of commencing in America, and France had reſolved to invade the Low Countries and the electorate of Hanover, and to excite a continental war. With this view the cabinet of Verſailles propoſed to the king of Pruſſia, to co-operate in invading the electorate, and attacking the dominions of the houſe of Auſtria, hitherto the inſeparable ally of England. The Britiſh cabinet, alarmed at this aſpect of affairs, formed the plan of a triple alliance between Great Britain, Auſtria, and Ruſſia, and to promote the negotiation, the king repaired to Hanover, accompanied by the earl of Holderneſſe, ſecretary of ſtate.

Sir Charles Hanbury Williams arrived at St. Peterſburg in the latter end of June; the negotiation had been already opened by Mr. Guy Dickins, who lately occupied the poſt of envoy to the court of Ruſſia; but his character and manners were not calculated to enſure ſucceſs. He was treated with coldneſs and reſerve by the empreſs, and had rendered himſelf highly offenſive to the great chancellor count Beſtucheff.

On the firſt appearance of the new embaſſador things immediately wore a favourable aſpect; at his preſence all obſtacles were inſtantly removed, and all difficulties vaniſhed. The votary of wit and pleaſure was well received by the gay and voluptuous Eliſabeth; he attached to his cauſe the great duke, afterwards the unfortunate Peter the third, and his conſort the princeſs of Anhalt Zerbſt, who became conſpicuous under the name of Catherine the ſecond. All the miniſters vied in loading him with marks of attention and civility; he broke through the uſual forms of etiquette, and united in his favour the diſcordant views of the Ruſſian cabinet; he conciliated the unbending and ſuſpicious Beſtucheff; warmed the phlegmatic temper of the vice chancellor

count

count Voronzoff; and gained the under agents, who were enabled, by petty intrigues and ſecret cabals, to thwart the intentions of the principal miniſters. He fulfilled literally the tenor of his own expreſſions, that he would "*make uſe of the honey-moon of* "*his miniſtry*," to conclude the convention as ſpeedily as poſſible on the beſt terms which could be obtained; he executed the orders of the king, not to ſign any treaty in which an attack on any of his majeſty's allies, or on any part of his electoral dominions, was not made a caſus fœderis; in ſix weeks after his arrival at St. Peterſburg, he obtained the ſignature, without uſing all the full powers intruſted to him by the Britiſh cabinet, and inſtantly tranſmitted it to Hanover.

His ſanguine imagination exaggerated the merit of his ſervices; and he fondly expected an inſtantaneous anſwer filled with expreſſions of high applauſe. Some time, however, elapſed before any anſwer arrived; at length the expected meſſenger came; he ſeiſed the diſpatches, and opened them with extreme impatience, in the preſence of his confidential friend count Poniatowſki, afterwards king of Poland. In a few minutes he threw the letter which he was reading on the floor, ſtruck his forehead with both his hands, and remained for ſome time abſorbed in a deep reverie. Turning at length to count Poniatowſki, he exclaimed, "Would you think it poſſible? Inſtead of receiving thanks for my zeal and activity in concluding the convention, I am blamed for an informality in the ſignature, and the king is diſpleaſed with my efforts to ſerve him *."

This exceſſive diſappointment threw him into a ſtate of deſpondency, and was probably one cauſe of his ſubſequent derangement. To the embaſſador at Peterſburg, the conduct of the Britiſh cabinet was an enigma, which was ſoon explained. During the period which elapſed between the arrival of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams at Peterſburg, and the receipt of the convention at Hanover, an extraordinary and unexpected change had taken place in the politics of the Britiſh cabinet: Maria Thereſa, apprehenſive of an attack from the king of Pruſſia, refuſed to protect the electorate of Hanover, if invaded in conſequence of

* This intereſting anecdote I received from the late king of Poland himſelf in 1785.

of a rupture between France and Great Britain, on account of diſputes in America; ſhe eluded ſending, in conformity with the articles of the barrier treaty, the ſtipulated number of troops into the Low Countries, and was ſuſpected of maintaining a ſecret correſpondence with the court of Verſailles; hence the Britiſh cabinet were reduced to a ſtate of ſuſpence, and the king was alarmed for the ſafety of his German dominions. At this critical juncture, private overtures from the king of Pruſſia, through the channel of the duke of Brunſwic, were eagerly received; the earl of Holderneſſe was diſpatched to Brunſwic, and a ſecret negotiation opened with the court of Berlin *.

Hence the efforts of ſir Charles to prejudice the empreſs Eliſabeth againſt the king of Pruſſia, and in favour of Auſtria, were adverſe to the views of the Britiſh miniſtry; hence the ſignature of the convention, and the profuſe expenditure of money which procured its immediate concluſion, were not ſubjects of applauſe. An objection was made againſt two of the articles, as well as againſt an informality in the ſignature, and the king expreſſed his diſapprobation in terms of the higheſt diſpleaſure. The convention was to be re-executed with conſiderable alterations, and the efforts of the embaſſador directed to ſupport the new ſyſtem of continental politics.

In promoting theſe views he was no leſs indefatigable, though leſs ſucceſsful than in his former exertions. He obtained indeed the ſignature of a new convention, on the conditions preſcribed by the king his maſter, but could not ſhake the attachment of Eliſabeth to Maria Thereſa, or allay her perſonal enmity to Frederic the ſecond, who had excited her reſentment by ſarcaſtic animadverſions.

The French, availing themſelves of theſe circumſtances, ſent the chevalier Douglas (a gentleman of Scottiſh extraction, who aſſumed the name of Mackenzie) to counteract the efforts of the Britiſh embaſſador. Their intereſts were eſpouſed by the vice chancellor Voronzof, but they found a ſtill more powerful advocate in count Ivan Schuvalof, the favourite of Eliſabeth, who was flattered

* Diſpatches from the earl of Holderneſſe to the duke of Newcaſtle and ſir Benjamin Keene. Keene's Papers.

ſlattered with the attentions of the court of Verſailles, and laboured to introduce a French embaſſador. In this ſituation of affairs, Douglas, ſupplied with large ſums of money, and ſkilled in intrigue, ſucceeded in rendering the convention ineffectual, and in cementing the alliance between Ruſſia and Auſtria, by the intervention of France.

During theſe tranſactions, ſir Charles was treated by the empreſs with coldneſs and reſerve; he was avoided by the principal courtiers; and reports were induſtriouſly circulated of the king's diſpleaſure, and of his ſpeedy recal. The irkſomeneſs of his ſituation, and the decline of his health, rendered him deſirous to retire from this ſcene of buſineſs in the latter end of 1756. "Diſ-"appointment," as he afterwards feelingly obſerved in a letter to the earl of Holderneſſe, "in every thing I undertook, and vexation at not being able to "exert myſelf in the manner I ought, and wiſhed to do, added to my long ill-"neſs, made me reſolve not to remain here in a ſituation almoſt uſeleſs to my "ſovereign, and dangerous to my own health *."

In conſequence of repeated and earneſt entreaties, permiſſion was granted for his return, and the letter of recal actually forwarded through the channel of Mr. Mitchel, Britiſh miniſter at Berlin; but the king of Pruſſia ſo ſtrongly remonſtrated againſt his recal at this critical juncture, that Mr. Mitchel ventured to ſend back the letter to the earl of Holderneſſe, accompanied with the warmeſt eulogium of his character and ſervices.

"Your lordſhip is informed," he ſays, "that for ſome months paſt, ſir Charles Hanbury Williams has been much truſted by the king of Pruſſia in affairs of a very delicate nature." "The great duke and ducheſs are equally well diſpoſed to the king, and to his Pruſſian majeſty. It is therefore humbly ſubmitted to your lordſhip, whether the recalling of ſir Charles Williams at this time, may not be very prejudicial to their affairs, as they will thereby be deprived of all advice and aſſiſtance from a perſon in whom they have great confidence, and in a conjuncture the moſt dangerous and critical that can be imagined; nor is it poſſible to remedy this by ſending any other perſon to ſucceed ſir Charles Hanbury Williams,

* Sir Charles Hanbury Williams to the earl of Holderneſſe. March 22, N. S. 1757.

Williams, whoſe knowledge and connections with the miniſters of that court cannot be eaſily transferred. Far leſs can his intimacy and friendſhip with the ſucceſſor to the crown, be devolved upon any new miniſter of what character ſoever *."

The earl of Holderneſſe accompanied this flattering teſtimony of the king of Pruſſia's confidence with a permiſſion to return; but expreſſed the ſatisfaction his ſovereign would derive from his continuance at Peterſburg. Sir Charles could not withſtand the earneſt entreaties of the Pruſſian monarch, and the condeſcending requeſt of his royal maſter; he continued in his poſt until all his efforts proved unſucceſsful, and the empreſs coaleſced with Auſtria and France. In the midſt of this arduous buſineſs his health rapidly declined, his head was occaſionally affected, and his mind diſtracted with vexation; the irregularities of his life irritated his nerves, and a fatiguing journey exhauſted his ſpirits.

Soon after his arrival at Hamburgh, in the autumn of 1757, he was ſuddenly ſmitten with a woman of low intrigue, gave her a note for £. 2,000, and a contract of marriage, though his wife was ſtill living; he alſo took large doſes of ſtimulating medicines, which affected his head, and was conveyed to England in a ſtate of inſanity. During the paſſage, he fell from the deck into the hold, and dangerouſly bruiſed his ſide; he was blooded four times on board, and four times immediately after his arrival in England. In a little more than a month, he recovered, and paſſed the ſummer at Coldbrook houſe. From this place, he wrote a letter to his friend Mr. Keith, which proves the calm ſtate of his mind, and breathes the warmth of paternal affection:

" By a letter which I wrote to baron Wolfe ſome time ago, and which I don't " doubt he ſhewed you, you have been informed already of the wretched ſtate " of my health, both at Hamburgh and ſince my return to England. But I am " now as perfectly well as ever I was in my life, and improving this charming " place, where I hope to ſee you one day, to talk over things that nobody but " you and I in England underſtand.

" My beloved lady Eſſex, who I aſſure you has a true friendſhip for you, and " who

* Mr. Mitchel to the earl of Holderneſſe, Brunſwic, Feb. 8, 1757.

" who I believe eſteems you as much as any man in the world, who is not of her " own family, will I hope be very ſoon here to paſs away the beſt part of the " ſummer with me; I leave you to imagine my happineſs in ſeeing her, to be- " hold what I love much the beſt in the world, endowed with every exterior " charm, and an inſide that at leaſt equals her beautiful perſon. Her knowledge " of the court and of the world is prodigious. She has many acquaintance " among her own ſex, and two of the moſt exemplary women we have in " England for her friends, I mean lady Caroline Fox, and the counteſs of Dalkeith. " She is diſtinguiſhed more than any woman that comes to court by the king; " and for good breeding and good ſenſe has hardly her equal in England. But " one thing, which perhaps you dont know about her is, that ſhe ſhines full as " much in the character of a good houſewife, as ſhe does in that of a fine lady; " and that all the accounts of my lord's eſtates, and the expences of his houſe, are " neatly kept in books by her own hand. In ſhort, ſhe has exceeded all my " hopes, and requited my fondeſt wiſhes about her; and I will not imagine this " deſcription to be tedious to you, becauſe I am ſure the friend will feel and read " with pleaſure, what the father feels with tranſport, and writes with truth."

Towards the latter end of 1759, he relapſed into a ſtate of inſanity, and expired on the 2d of November, aged 50.

His official diſpatches are written with great life and ſpirit; he delineates characters with truth and facility; and deſcribes his diplomatic tranſactions with minuteneſs and accuracy, but without tedioufneſs or formality.

The verſes of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams were highly prized by his contemporaries, and the letters of his friend Mr. Fox, abound with extravagant commendations of his poetical talents; but in peruſing thoſe which have been given to the public, and thoſe which are ſtill in manuſcript, the greater part are political effuſions, or licentious lampoons, abounding with local wit and temporary ſatire, eagerly read at the time of their appearance, but little intereſting to poſterity. Three of his pieces, however, deſerve to be exempted from this general character; his poem of Iſabella, or the Morning, is remarkable for eaſe of verſification, and happy diſcrimination of character; his epitaph on Mr. Winnington

nington is written with great feeling; and his beautiful ode to Mr. Pointz, in honour of the duke of Cumberland, breathes a ſpirit of ſublimity, which entitles the author to the rank of a poet, and excites our regret that his muſe was not always employed on ſubjects worthy of his talents.

Sir Charles left by his wife two daughters, Frances, firſt wife of William Anne late earl of Eſſex, and Charlotte, who eſpouſed the honourable Robert Boyle Walſingham, youngeſt ſon of the earl of Shannon, a commodore in the navy. On his death without iſſue male, the eſtate and manſion of Coldbrook came to his brother George, who died in 1764, and now belongs to his ſon John Hanbury Williams, eſq. the preſent proprietor.

Coldbrook houſe is delightfully ſituated to the ſouth of Abergavenny, on the left of the high road leading to Monmouth, and the New Paſſage, at the foot of the Little Skyrrid, in the midſt of grounds beautifully diverſified, and richly clothed with oak, beech, and elm.

The ancient manſion was an irregular edifice, with a ſquare tower at each angle; the northern front, with an elegant doric portico, was conſtructed by ſir Charles Hanbury Williams. The houſe contains ſeveral well proportioned apartments, but is more calculated for a ſummer than for a winter reſidence, as it is emboſomed in the wood, and the principal rooms have a northern aſpect. It has been much improved by the preſent proprietor, but the furniture and decorations are nearly the ſame as in the time of ſir Charles.

The family portraits are few in number: two heads of his father major Hanbury, one in armour, and the other in a red night cap, copied from thoſe at Pont y Pool; a portrait of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, in full dreſs, with the inſignia of the bath, painted in 1744, ſoon after he was inveſted with the order, exhibiting a countenance remarkably handſome; another ſmaller portrait in his more advanced age, repreſents him leaning his cheek upon his right hand, and holding in his left the poem of Iſabella, or the Morning; it is ſimilar to that of Pont y Pool, but of a ſmaller ſize *; whole length figures of his two daughters when children.

Beſides

* See the annexed engraving.

Beſides the family pictures, are a few not unworthy of notice: Henrietta queen of Charles the firſt, and a lady unknown, by Vandyke, in his beſt manner; heads of Oliver Cromwell, William the third, and queen Mary; George the ſecond, in his royal robes, with the ſceptre in his hand; the duke of Cumberland; a whole length of ſir Robert Walpole, in the robes of chancellor of the Exchequer, a preſent from the miniſter, and a copy from the original picture by Vanloo, now in the Imperial collection at Peterſburg, from which ſeveral engravings have been taken; Frederic the ſecond, king of Pruſſia; Audrey, wife of Charles, third lord viſcount Townſhend, of whom ſo many witticiſms, which ſhe really did ſay, are recorded, and of whom ſo many ſhe did not ſay are reported; John lord Hervey, the intimate friend and companion of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, as lord privy ſeal, by Vanloo, from which a print has been engraven; and a head of John lord Carteret, afterwards earl Granville.

Among ſeveral other heads I noticed thoſe of ſignora Fraſi, the celebrated ſinger; Mrs. Woffington; Mrs. Oldfield, and her veteran paramour general Churchill: he is drawn in his uniform, and "*well dreſſed perriwig*," and brought to my recollection his admirable portrait, delineated by ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, in colours more animated and durable than were ever repreſented on canvas:

" The Gen'ral! one of thoſe old brave commanders,
" Who ſerv'd through all the glorious wars in Flanders;
" Frank and good natur'd, of an honeſt heart,
" Loving to act the ſteady friendly part.
" None led through youth a gayer life than he,
" Cheerful in converſe, ſmart in repartee:
" Sweet was his night, and joyful was his day,
" He din'd with Walpole, and with Oldfield lay.
" But with old age its vices came along,
" And in narration he's extremely long;
" Exact in circumſtance, and nice in dates,
" He each minute particular relates.

" If

" If you name one of Marlbro's ten campaigns,
" He tells you its whole ſtory for your pains;
" And Blenheim's field becomes by his reciting,
" As long in telling as it was in fighting.
" His old deſire to pleaſe is ſtill expreſs'd,
" His hat 's well cock'd, his perriwig 's well dreſs'd;
" He rolls his ſtockings ſtill, white gloves he wears,
" And in the boxes with the beaux appears;
" His eyes through wrinkled corners caſt their rays;
" Still he looks cheerful, ſtill ſoft things he ſays;
" And ſtill rememb'ring that he once was young,
" He ſtrains his crippl'd knees, and ſtruts along."

COLDBROOK HOUSE.

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CHAPTER 30.

Upper and Lower Roads from Abergavenny to Monmouth.—Landeilo Creſſeney.—Family of Lewis.—Portraits and Anecdotes of Thomas and James Howell.—Veſtiges of the Court Houſe, the Reſidence of Sir David Gam.—Remains of the Abbey of Grace Dieu.

TWO high roads lead from Abergavenny to Monmouth; the lower, which is the longeſt, paſſes at a ſmall diſtance from the left bank of the Uſk, leaving Coldbrook Houſe, Lanſanfraed, and Clytha on the left, near which place it turns to the eaſt, through Bringwin and Tregaer, where there are remains of a tumulus and entrenchments, from which the name is derived. It continues through Dynaſtow, croſſes the Trothy, leaves Treowen on the left, and Wonaſtow on the right, and enters Monmouth at the gate of the Monnow. The upper road, which is ſhorter, but more hilly, ſkirts the northern ſide of the Little Skyrrid, paſſes through Lanvaply, Landeilo Creſſeney, and Rockfield, and joins the lower road near the gate of the Monnow.

Landeilo Creſſeney* is ſituated nearly midway between Abergavenny and Monmouth, and is the reſidence of Richard Lewis, eſq. to whom I was more than once indebted for a kind and friendly reception. The houſe ſtands in a fertile, encloſed, undulating, and richly wooded country, and commands extenſive views of the diſtant hills and mountains, particularly the rough ridge of the Great Skyrrid, which riſes above the cultivated eminences, crowned by the majeſtic ruins

* The village of Landeilo, or Lantilio Creſſeney, takes its name from the church, which is dedicated to St. Teliau, and from an aſh which ſtood at the interſection of two roads; the name ſignifying the church of St. Teliau, near the Croſs Aſh.

ruins of White Caſtle. A deep, broad and extenſive entrenchment, in the grounds near the houſe, and an artificial mound of earth, on which the church is built, ſeem to prove, that in early times there was in this ſpot a place of defence.

Landeilo Houſe was long the ſeat of a younger branch of the family of Powell, deſcended from the Herberts; this family was once extremely numerous, particularly in this part of Monmouthſhire, and ſeveral of their ſeats being ſituated near the Trothy, it became a common ſaying, that the banks of the Trothy were never without a Powell. The male line being extinct on the death of Matthew, his ſiſter Mary conveyed the eſtate to her huſband John Lewis, eſq. of Caermarthenſhire, and their ſon Richard Lewis, eſq. is the preſent proprietor. The manſion is a handſome and convenient modern edifice, and was built by the late Mr. Lewis.

Among a few portraits are thoſe of three brothers, ſons of the Rev. **** Howell, miniſter of Abernant, in Caermarthenſhire, two of whom were remarkable in the hiſtory of the times. One is the head of Thomas Howell, biſhop of Briſtol; he was born in 1588, and became ſcholar and fellow of Jeſus college in the univerſity of Oxford; he was chaplain to king Charles the firſt, promoted to the rectories of St. Stephen's in Walbrook, London, and Weſt Horſely in Surry, and in 1636 made canon of Windſor. At the beginning of the troubles he was driven by perſecution from both his livings, which were then ſequeſtered for his abſence. The king, compaſſionating his misfortunes, nominated him to the ſee of Briſtol; but this elevation was the cauſe of his ſufferings and death. "He met," ſays Walker, "with barbarous uſage from the hands of the rebels. His palace, which was then covered with lead, they uncaſed and ſold the lead; ſo that he was expoſed to the weather by day and by night. His lady they knew then to be in child-bed, in which condition it rained freely upon her. After many other indignities, they pulled and halled him violently out of the palace. In a word, their uſage towards him was ſuch, that he did not long ſurvive their cruelty; but being a perſon of a mild and tender ſpirit, died ſoon after." "He was accounted," ſaith Wood, "a meek man, and a good

preacher, and had in his younger days been a very painful one." Lloyd adds, "that he was a perſon of great clearneſs, candour, ſolidneſs, ſweetneſs, and eloquence; that he had an inſight into ſtate affairs, as well as the more peculiar concerns of his own function; that though he found few well affected in his dioceſe at his coming thither, yet he left few ill affected in it at his death; and that he was ſo well beloved at Briſtol, that 'tis ſaid, after his deceaſe (which happened in 1646) the city took upon them the care of his childrens' education, (who were eleven in number) in gratitude to the memory of their moſt worthy father*."

The other painting is a ſmall whole length figure of his younger brother James, in a Spaniſh dreſs, leaning againſt a tree, from which the print prefixed to ſome of his works is taken. This ſingular man was born about 1594, and, to uſe his own words, "his aſcendant was that hot conſtellation of Cancer about the midſt of the dog days." He was brought up in the free ſchool of Hereford, and "*under a learned but laſhing maſter*," made a conſiderable progreſs in claſſical literature. He completed his education at Jeſus college, and after taking his bachelor's degree, "tumbled out into the world, a pure cadet, a true "coſmopolite, not born to land, leaſe, houſe or office †.

He commenced his career as ſteward to a glaſs houſe, conducted by perſons of the firſt rank and fortune, travelled as agent for the company through the Low Countries, France, Portugal, Spain and Italy, and acquired ſuch a knowledge of languages, that he ſaid, "*Thank God, I have the fruit of my foreign travels, that I can pray to him every day in the week in a ſeparate language, and upon Sunday in ſeven.*" Soon after his return to England, he was appointed fellow of Jeſus college, "*which*," to uſe his own expreſſions, "*he reſerved and laid by as a good warm garment in rough weather.*" Finding "*his glaſs employment too brittle a foundation to build a fortune upon*," he accepted the place of governor to the ſons of lord Savage; but ſoon quitted that office, on account of his youth and difference of religion, and accompanied the ſon of baron Altham in his travels into France. During a reſidence at Poiſſy, he purſued his ſtudies with ſuch intenſeneſs as to endanger his life.

Being

* Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy, &c. part 2, p. 3. † Letters, p. 299.

Being on his return to England reſtored to health by the ſkill of the celebrated doctor Harvey, he was appointed by the king agent at Madrid, to obtain the recovery of a rich Engliſh ſhip confiſcated by the viceroy of Sardinia, and in caſe of ſucceſs was promiſed a reward of £. 3,000. Having nearly brought the affair to a favourable concluſion, "*the breaking of the Spaniſh match broke the neck of* "*the whole buſineſs*;" and he returned to England as unprovided as he went. He now paid his court to the duke of Buckingham, the great diſpenſer of royal favour, and being graciouſly received, entertained ſanguine expectations of ſpeedy promotion. But finding his hopes diſappointed after two years attendance, and juſtly concluding "*that an acre of performance is worth a whole land of promiſe*," he accepted the office of ſecretary to lord Scrope afterwards earl of Sunderland, lord preſident of the north, and accompanied him to York, from whence he wrote to his friend Daniel Caldwell: "*For this preſent condition of life I thank God I live well and contented, I have a fee from the king, diet for myſelf and two ſervants, livery for a horſe, and part of the king's houſe for my lodging**."

He received great marks of favour from the earl of Strafford, who ſucceeded lord Scrope in the preſidency of the north, but continued with the latter as his private ſecretary until his death. Soon after that event he went in 1632 as ſecretary to Robert earl of Leiceſter, embaſſador extraordinary to the court of Denmark. After his return to England he continued unemployed, excepting a ſingle miſſion to Orleans, until 1639, when he repaired to Dublin, and threw himſelf on the protection of the earl of Strafford, lord deputy, from whom he had received many warm profeſſions which his lordſhip did not belie; he obtained the reverſion of the clerkſhip of the council, and the office of aſſiſtant clerk.

In 1640 he was ſent to France on a ſecret miſſion, and experienced a flattering reception from cardinal Richlieu; in the ſubſequent year he was appointed clerk of the council, but did not long enjoy this honourable and lucrative office; for in 1643 he was ſeiſed by a committee of the parliament, and confined in the Fleet priſon, partly for his known attachment to the royal cauſe, and

* Letters, p. 198.

and partly for debt, where he maintained himſelf by his writings. "*Here,*" he ſays, "*I purchaſed a ſmall ſpot of ground upon Parnaſſus, which I had in fee of the muſes, and I have endeavoured to manure it as well as I could, though I confeſs it hath yielded me little fruit hitherto.*" This fee farm of the muſes however, was conſiderably productive, and according to Wood, brought him a comfortable ſubſiſtance, during an impriſonment of ſeveral years, and maintained him after his enlargement until the reſtoration, when Charles the ſecond conferred upon him the place of hiſtoriographer royal, which was created expreſsly in his favour. He died in 1666, and was buried in the temple church, where a monument was erected to his memory, with an inſcription partly compoſed by himſelf, deſcriptive * of his chequered life.

His writings were as multifarious and chequered as his life, and ſo numerous that the bare catalogue fills nearly three pages in the Athenæ Oxonienſes. According to Anthony Wood, "he had a ſingular command of his pen, whether in "proſe or verſe, and was well read in modern hiſtories, eſpecially in the hiſtory "of the countries wherein he had travelled, and had a parabolical and alluſive "fancy according to his motto "ſeneſco non ſegneſco." Of all his numerous writings, his familiar letters alone are known to poſterity, and have paſſed through many editions; they are recommended no leſs by their native ſprightlineſs, than by the hiſtorical information which they contain †.

The church of Landeilo Creſſeney is a large handſome gothic building with a body and tower of ſtone, and a high ſpire covered with ſhingles, which forms a ſtriking object from every part of the ſurrounding country. About twelve years ago this ſpire was ſtruck with lightning in the middle of the night; a man in the vicinity of White Caſtle firſt ſaw the blaze, and haſtening to Landeilo rouſed the family, who were buried in ſleep, but were timely awakened to aſſiſt in extinguiſhing the conflagration.

The

* "Jacobus Howell Cambro Britannus, Regius Hiſ-
"toriographus in Anglia primus, qui poſt varias pe-
"regrinationes tandem naturæ curſum peregit, ſatur
"annorum & famæ, domi foriſque huc uſque erra-
"ticus, hic fixus 1666."

† See Howell's familiar letters, paſſim; Wood's Athenæ Oxonienſes, vol. 2. p. 381; and Biographia Britannica, art. James Howell.

The family of Powell were conſiderable benefactors to the pariſh of Landeilo; among their charities are the following; a free ſchool for the whole pariſh, the maſter of which has a houſe and garden, ten acres of land, and a ſalary of £. 30 per annum; an eſtate that now rents for £. 20, but will ſoon be raiſed to £. 30, for apprenticing boys and girls; £. 12 a year to be diſtributed in bread to the pariſhes of Landeilo and Tregaer; £. 20 per annum were alſo left by Mr. Williams of this pariſh, to be given annually to twenty perſons who do not receive alms.

Mr. Lewis pointed out to me, in the midſt of an adjoining field, which is part of a farm belonging to the duke of Beaufort, called the Park, the ſite of Old Court, formerly the reſidence of the celebrated ſir David Gam, who being ſent to reconnoitre the French before the battle of Agincourt, ſaid to Henry the fifth, "An't pleaſe you my liege they are enough to be killed, enough to run away, and enough to be taken priſoners." "King Henry," adds the Cambrian hiſtorian, in relating this adventure, "was well pleaſed and much encouraged by this reſolute and undaunted anſwer of ſir David's, whoſe tongue did not expreſs more valour than his hands performed. For in the heat of battle, the king's perſon being in danger, ſir David charged the enemy with that eagerneſs and maſculine bravery, that they were glad to give ground, and ſo ſecured the king, though with the loſs of much blood and alſo his life, himſelf and his ſon-in-law Roger Vaughan, and his kinſman Walter Llwyd of Brecknock having received their mortal wounds in that encounter. When the king heard of their condition, how that they were paſt all hopes of recovery, he came to them, and in recompence of their good ſervices, knighted them all three in the field, where they ſoon after died; and ſo ended the life, but not the fame of the ſignally valiant ſir David Gam *."

Many accounts are related of the numerous progeny begotten by this valourous knight, but the tradition of this place out-herods Herod; it is aſſerted that his children formed a line reaching from his houſe to the church: from Gladys, one of theſe children, the dukes of Beaufort and the earls of Pembroke † are deſcended.

* Powell's Hiſtory of Wales, p. 322, 323.

† See the chapter on Abergavenny.

ſcended. This farm contains upwards of 200 acres, and was formerly the red deer park belonging to Raglan caſtle.

About a mile to the ſouth of the high road leading from Landeilo Creſſeney to Monmouth, is a farm vulgarly called Parker's Due, a corruption, as the Rev. William Rogers of Perthîr informs me, of Parc 'ras Dieu, the park belonging to the abbey of Grace Dieu. It is the ſite of the original lodge, of which ſome traces are apparent in a few fragments of hewn ſtone walls adjoining to the dairy. From the farm the remains of a fine avenue of ancient elms lead to the left bank of the Trothy, on the other ſide of which, at a little diſtance, ſtand the ruins of the abbey, in a ſequeſtered ſituation, in the midſt of fertile meadows. Theſe ruins are extremely inſignificant, conſiſting only of part of a barn and a few detached fragments of walls. Leland juſtly deſcribes it as ſurrounded by good paſtures *, for the adjacent meadows on the banks of the Trothy are among the richeſt in Monmouthſhire, and are let at three guineas an acre. The circumjacent country abounds with orchards which yield excellent cider; thoſe belonging to the farm were formerly ſo numerous as to occaſion a common ſaying, that an apple from each tree would produce a hogſhead of cider.

According to Dugdale Grace Dieu was a ſmall Ciſtercian abbey, founded in 1229 by John of Monmouth, on Trody, ripa dextra, two miles from Monmouth, W. N. W. to the honour of the Virgin Mary, but was wholly deſtroyed by the Welſh in 1233. It was, however, afterwards partly rebuilt, for at the diſſolution it contained two monks, and was valued at £. 26. 1 s. 4 d. per annum. The ſite was granted, 37 of Henry 8, to Thomas Herbert and William Bretton †. Mr. Lorimer poſſeſſes the ancient ſeal of this abbey, which bears the figure of an abbot, and the inſcription SIGILLVM ABBATIS DE GRATIA DEI ET CONVENT:

* "Grace of Dew, an abbey of White Monkes ſtonding in a wood, and having a rille running by hit. Veri good paſtures be about this place. It ſtondith betwixt Wiſk and Raglande, iii miles from Cairwiſk, and iiii from Raglande." Itin. vol. 5, p. 2.

† Dugdale, Monaſticon.—Tanner.

CHAPTER 31.

Monmouth.—Charter.—Population.—Monmouth Caps.—Free School.—Church of St. Mary.—Ancient Priory.—Study of Geoffrey of Monmouth.—Obſervations on his Hiſtory.—Church of St. Thomas.—Chippenham Meadow.—Kymin.—View from the Pavilion.

MONMOUTH, the capital of the county, ſtands near the conflux of the Wy and Monnow, and from that ſituation derives its name *. The poſition is delightful; it is wholly ſurrounded by gentle hills and ſwelling eminences, moſtly covered from their baſes to their ſummits with rich woods, or laid out in fields of corn and paſture.

The views of the town from the environs are ſingularly diverſified; from ſome parts it appears as if ſeated wholly in a plain; to the weſt, on the other ſide of the Monnow, and from ſome level meadows called Tibb's farm, it ſeems perched on the precipitous and ſemicircular ridge, which forms the left bank of the river. In one point of view, near a pictureſque bridge over the Monnow, the ſcene † is peculiarly wild and romantic; the ſpire of the church and the remains of the priory are almoſt the only objects which riſe above the thick mantle of wood. The town preſents itſelf from the banks of the Wy with a very different aſpect; the houſes riſe on the ſides of a hill; like the ſeats of an amphitheatre, with the elevated ſpire of the church towering in the midſt, and the eminence crowned by the caſtle houſe.

A broad

* It is called in Welſh ſometimes Aberfyno, which has the ſame ſignification as the Engliſh name; but more commonly Trefynwy, or a town on the Monnow and Wy.

† See the annexed engraving.

Sr. Richd. Hoare Bart. delt. W. Byrne Sculpt.

VIEW OF MONMOUTH.

Published March 1, 1800, by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

A broad and handſome ſtreet leads from the bridge over the Monnow to the market place, which is ornamented with a new town hall, built on pillars, forming a handſome colonnade. Over the front is a niche containing a ſtatue of Henry the fifth, the glory of Monmouth, in an awkward attitude, with an inſcription commemorating his birth. From the market place a lane goes to the caſtle, and to the banks of the Monnow; a narrow ſtreet leads towards St. Mary's church, from whence it turns to the Wy, where a ſtone bridge of ſeveral arches is thrown acroſs the river. From the church a range of detached houſes, appearing like villas, forming White Croſs and Monks' ſtreet, ſkirts the Hereford road, and overlooks the rich meadows watered by the limpid and meandring Monnow. At a little diſtance from the extremity of this range ſtands the county jail, a ſtone building of maſſive ſtrength, impending over the Monnow, which well deſerves to be viſited by the traveller, for the commodious diſtribution of the whole, the airineſs of the apartments, the propriety of its regulations, and the ſtrict attention paid to the cleanlineſs and morals of the priſoners. A delightful walk bends alſo from Monks' ſtreet, along the banks of the Monnow to the iron works of Partridge and company.

Monmouth is a borough and corporate town, governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and common-council men. The earlieſt charter in the archives of the duchy is dated in 1549; it was granted by Edward the ſixth, "to the burgeſſes of his burg and town of Monmouth, in the marches of Wales, and within his duchy of Lancaſter," and confirms various franchiſes and privileges given by Henry the eighth, and the power of annually electing a mayor and two bailiffs. Monmouth firſt ſent a member to parliament in the 27 Henry 8; in 1680 the right of election was declared to belong to the burgeſſes inhabitants, in conjunction with the burgeſſes inhabitants of the towns of Newport and Uſk.

Monmouth contains 600 houſes; the average number of births in a year is between 70 and 80, and of burials 70; the population amounts to about 2,600 ſouls.

There are no manufactures, excepting the iron works of Partridge and company;

pany; the inhabitants are principally ſupported by the navigation of the Wy, the trade with Hereford and Briſtol, the ſupply of the neighbouring diſtricts with various kinds of ſhop goods, and the influx of company. Among the articles brought down the river, which give employment to many of the inhabitants, bark muſt not be omitted; it is conveyed in large quantities from the foreſts of the Upper Wy, and landed on the banks, where, after being pared and cleanſed, it is ſent for exportation to Chepſtow. I obſerved on the ſide of the river numerous piles of this commodity, as large as hay-ricks, from fifty to one hundred tons; and noticed with pleaſure the expedition and facility with which the operations of cleanſing and piling are performed.

Caps once formed a conſiderable branch of trade in Monmouth. In the days of Henry the fifth, and in ſubſequent times, Monmouth caps were much eſteemed. Fluellen, in Shakſpeare's Henry the fifth, alluding to this faſhion, addreſſes the king: "If your majeſties is remember'd of it, the Welſhmen did goot ſervice in a garden where leeks did grow, wearing leeks in their *Monmouth* caps." From an old ballad of the Caps, printed in the Antidote againſt Melancholy, it appears they were particularly worn by ſoldiers:

"The ſoldiers that the *Monmouth* wear,
"On caſtles' tops their enſigns rear*."

Fuller alſo in his Worthies gives a curious account of the Monmouth caps, and of the number of perſons employed in the manufacture †.

A free

* Quoted in Malone's Shakſpeare, act iv. ſc. 7.

† "Theſe were the moſt ancient, general, warm and profitable coverings of men's heads in this iſland. It is worth our pains to obſerve the tenderneſs of our kings to preſerve the trade of cap making, and what long and ſtrong ſtruggling our ſtate had to keep up the uſing thereof, ſo many thouſands of people being maintained thereby in the land, eſpecially before the invention of fulling-mills, all caps before that time being wrought, beaten, and thickened by the hands and feet of men, till thoſe mills, as they eaſed many of their labour, outed more of their livelihood. Capping anciently ſet fifteen diſtinct callings on work, as they are reckoned up in the ſtatute; 1. carders, 2. ſpinners, 3. knitters, 4. parters of wool, 5. forſers, 6. thickers, 7. dreſſers, 8. walkers, 9. dyers, 10. battellers, 11. ſhearers, 12. preſſers, 13. edgers, 14. liners, 15. band makers, and other exerciſes. No wonder then that ſo many ſtatutes were enacted in parliament to encourage this handicraft." After enumerating ſeveral acts of parliament paſſed in the reigns of Edward the fourth, Henry the eighth, and Eliſabeth, for the purpoſe of encouraging their wear, he adds, "Laſtly, to keep up the uſage of caps, it was enacted in the 13 of queen Eliz. cap. 19, that they ſhould be worn by all perſons (ſome of worſhip and quality excepted) on ſabboth and holydays, on the pain of forfeiting ten groats for omiſſion thereof."

"But

A free ſchool was founded at Monmouth in the reign of James the firſt, by William Jones, haberdaſher, who acquired a conſiderable fortune by his own induſtry. The tradition of the town gives a ſingular ſtory of its eſtabliſhment: he was a native of Newland in Gloceſterſhire, but paſſed the early part of his life in a menial capacity at Monmouth; from this ſituation he became ſhop boy to a merchant in London, where his acuteneſs procured his admiſſion to the compting houſe, and he performed the office of clerk with ſuch diligence, ſkill, and fidelity, that he was employed by his maſter as a factor abroad, and afterwards taken into partnerſhip. Having raiſed an ample fortune, he quitted London, returned to Newland under the appearance of great poverty, and made an application to the pariſh: being tauntingly adviſed to ſeek relief at Monmouth, where he had lived at ſervice, and would find perſons diſpoſed to aſſiſt him, had he conducted himſelf with propriety, he repaired thither, and experienced the charity of ſeveral inhabitants. In gratitude for this reception, he founded a free ſchool on a liberal eſtabliſhment; to the maſter, a houſe with a ſalary of £.90 a year; to the uſher, a ſalary of £.45 a year with a houſe; and to a lecturer, for the purpoſe of inſpecting the alms houſes, reading prayers, and preaching a weekly ſermon, an excellent houſe and garden, with a ſalary of £.105 a year. He alſo built alms houſes for twenty poor people, leaving to each 3*s*. 6*d*. a week *. The portrait of the founder, habited in the coſtume of the age of James the firſt, with an inſcription, "Walter William Jones, haberdaſher and merchant of London, &c." is preſerved in the ſchool room. The ſchool, at preſent, enjoys a high reputation under the care of the Rev. John Powell, a member of the univerſity of Oxford.

The

"But it ſeems nothing but hats would fit the heads (or humours rather) of the Engliſh, as fancied by them fitter to fence their fair faces from the injury of wind and weather, ſo that the 39 of queen Elizabeth this ſtatute was repealed. Yea, the cap accounted by the Romans an emblem of liberty, is eſteemed by the Engliſh (except falconers and hunters) a badge of ſervitude, though very uſeful in themſelves, and the enſign of conſtancy, becauſe not diſcompoſed, but retaining their faſhion, in what form ſoever they be crouded.

"The beſt caps were formerly made at Monmouth, where the capper's chapel doth ſtill remain, being better carved and gilded than any other part of the church. But on the occaſion of a great plague happening in this town, the trade was ſome years ſince removed hence to Beaudly in Worceſterſhire, yet ſo that they are called Monmouth caps unto this day. Thus this town retains, though not the profit, the credit of capping, and ſeeing the child keeps the mother's name, there is ſome hope in due time ſhe may return to her." Fuller's Worthies, art. Monmouthſhire.

* Communicated by the Rev. Thomas Proſſer the lecturer.

The church of the priory occupied the ſite of St. Mary's, the preſent pariſh church, and about ſixty years ago was partly taken down and re-conſtructed. The tower and lower part of the ſpire are the only remains of the ancient edifice, which was highly venerable for its antiquity, and from a pointed arch in the belfry, and the ornamented weſt window appears to have been built in the gothic ſtyle of architecture. The preſent edifice is of hewn ſtone, and the tapering ſpire, nearly 200 feet in height, forms a beautiful and conſpicuous object, ſtriking from its loftineſs and elegance. The body of the church is extremely light and well proportioned; the range of columns which ſeparate the nave and the aiſle, and ſupport a ſtrait entablature, have a pleaſing effect.

The traveller who is fond of proſpects will aſcend the tower, from whence he will enjoy a ſingular bird's eye view of Monmouth, and the environs, watered by the Wy, the Monnow, and the Trothy; from this central poſition he will likewiſe diſcriminate the circular range of hills, whoſe undulating outline and rich mantle of foreſts, form a pleaſing back ground from every part of the rich vale, in which the town is ſituated.

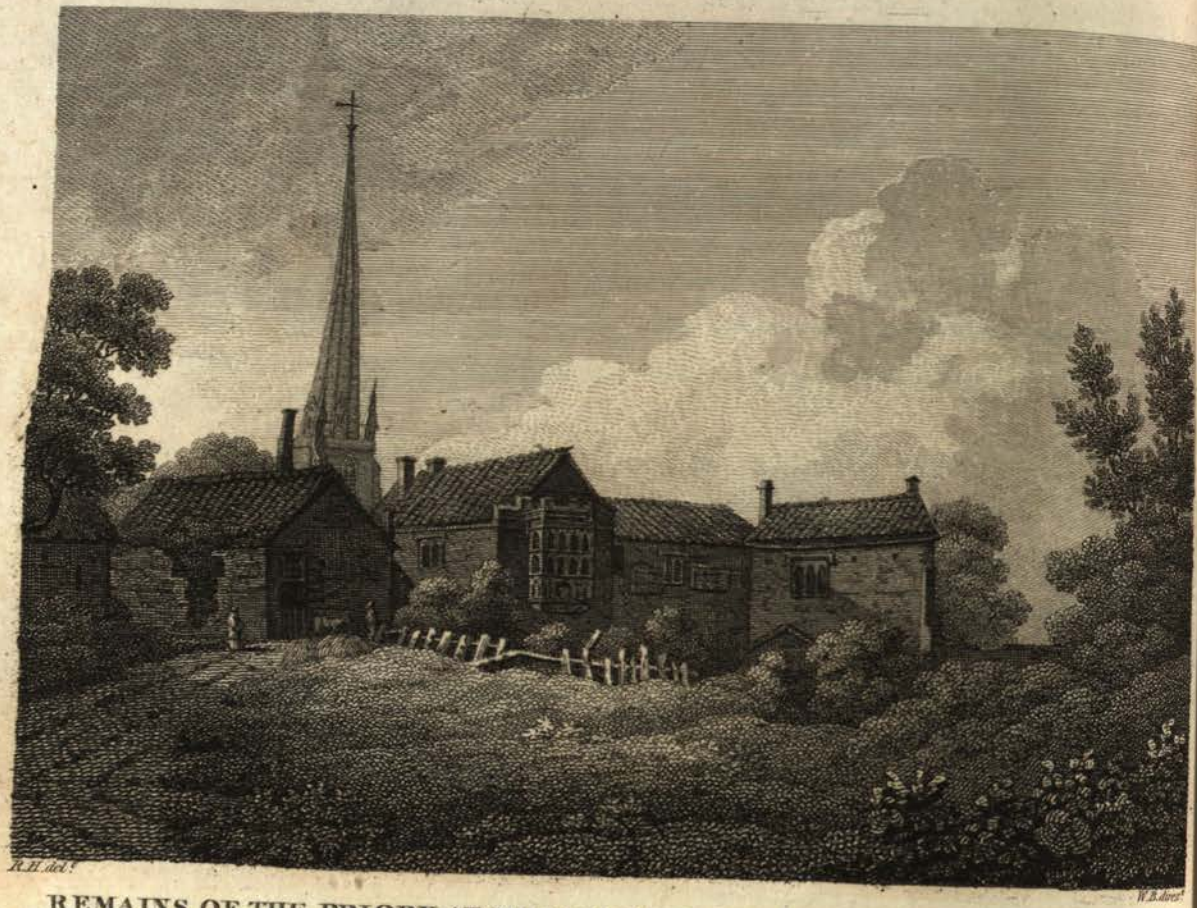
To the north of St. Mary's church are the remains of an alien Benedictine priory of black monks, dedicated to St. Mary, which was founded in the reign of Henry the firſt, by Wihenoc, lord of Monmouth, and was a cell to the monaſtery of St. Florence, near Salmur in Anjou. At the diſſolution, it was valued at £.56. 1s. 11d. Richard Taltbuſh, the laſt prior, received a penſion of £.9*. In the 4th of Philip and Mary, the ſite was granted to Richard Price and Thomas Perry.

In the reign of Queen Eliſabeth, three fourths of the great tythes belonged to ſir Charles Somerſet, of Troy houſe, knight, and one fourth to Mrs. Joan Rice, as her widow's jointure†. All the great tythes, and all the glebe land, except the houſe and orchard, now belong to the duke of Beaufort. In the beginning of this century, the priory houſe was occupied by Mr. Benedictus Williams, a Roman catholic; he ſold it to Mr. William Adams, the father of William Adams Williams, eſq. who married the heireſs of Langibby, to whom it now belongs.

Tradition

* Willis's Abbies, vol. 2. p. 142.

† Communication by the Rev. Duncombe Davis, from the regiſtery of the conſiſtory court of the dioceſe of Hereford.



R.H. del.

W.B. direx.

REMAINS OF THE PRIORY AT MONMOUTH & GEOFFREY OF MONMOUTH'S STUDY.

Published March 1 1800, by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

Tradition ſtill points out a ſmall apartment of the priory as the library of Geoffrey of Monmouth; it bears in the ceiling and windows remains of former magnificence, but is much more modern than the age of Geoffrey: it is now converted into a ſchool room. Although the century in which Geoffrey flouriſhed is known, yet neither his family, the time of his birth, nor the place of his education is aſcertained; we are only informed that he was born in this town, probably educated in the monaſtery, became archdeacon of Monmouth, and was conſecrated biſhop of St. Aſaph in 1152. By ſome he is called a monk of the Dominican order, but according to Leland, without ſufficient authority; by others he is ſtyled a cardinal, but has no more claim to that dignity than his heroes have to the actions which he makes them perform.

He wrote a treatiſe on the holy ſacrament, and ſome miſcellaneous verſes on Merlin; yet neither of theſe performances would have reſcued his name from oblivion, had not chance made him the tranſlator of a Britiſh Hiſtory, preſented to him in the original language, by Walter, archdeacon of Oxford *.

This hiſtory has occaſioned a long controverſy, and divided the learned world as much as any other work ever given to the public: by ſome it has been treated as a forgery impoſed upon the world by Geoffrey himſelf; by others, the ground work is conſidered as true, although the hiſtory, like moſt monkiſh writings, is mixed with childiſh fables and legendary tales. Thompſon, the tranſlator of the Britiſh Hiſtory, has written an elaborate vindication of the work, and defends Geoffrey with great ſkill and learning; but after refuting the charge of forgery, he has failed in eſtabliſhing it as an hiſtorical performance; for he himſelf invalidates its authority by acknowledging, that it was only ſuch an irregular account as the Britains were able to preſerve in thoſe times of deſtruction and confuſion; beſides ſome other romantic tales, which indeed might be traditions among the Welſh, and ſuch as Geoffrey might think entertaining ſtories for the credulity of the times †.

We have, however, no need of any other arguments than the confeſſion of Geoffrey himſelf, who acknowledges that the Hiſtory of Britain was not *wholly* a tranſlation

* Brut y Breninodd, or the Chronicle of the Kings of Britain. † Preface, p. xxxvii. lxvii.

tranſlation of the Welſh manuſcript; he avows that he added ſeveral parts, particularly Merlin's prophecies, and inſerted ſome circumſtances "which he had heard from that moſt learned hiſtorian, Walter archdeacon of Oxford."

The controverſy is at length finally decided, and the beſt Welſh critics allow, that Geoffrey's work was a vitiated tranſlation of the Hiſtory of the Britiſh kings, written by Tyſſilio, or St. Teliau, biſhop of St. Aſaph, who flouriſhed in the ſeventh century. Geoffrey in his work omitted many parts, made conſiderable alterations, additions, and interpolations, latiniſed many of the Britiſh appellations, and in the opinion of a learned Welſhman, murdered Tyſſilio*; we may therefore conclude, that Geoffrey ought to be no more cited as hiſtorical authority than Amadis de Gaul, or the Seven Champions of Chriſtendom.

But whatever opinion may be entertained, in regard to its authenticity, Geoffrey's Britiſh Hiſtory forms a new epoch in the literature of this country; and next to the Hiſtory of Charlemagne, by Turpin, probably written in the eleventh century, was the firſt production which introduced that ſpecies of compoſition called romance.

The work of Geoffrey is extremely entertaining, and his fables have been frequently clothed in rhyme: in the thirteenth century, Robert, a monk of the abbey of Gloceſter, wrote an hiſtory of England in verſe, in the Alexandrian meaſure, from Brutus to the reign of Edward the firſt. Warton juſtly obſerves, in his hiſtory of Engliſh poetry, "that the tales have often a more poetical air in Jeffery's proſe than in this rhyming chronicle, which is totally deſtitute of art or imagination, and from its obſolete language, ſcarcely intelligible." This hiſtorical romance, however, was not only verſified by monkiſh writers, but ſupplied ſome of our beſt poets with materials for their ſublime compoſitions. Spencer, in the ſecond book of his Faerie Queene, has given,

"A chronicle of Briton kings,
"From Brute to Arthur's rayne;"

In which he adorns the genealogy with poetical images, and introduces it with a ſublime addreſs to queen Eliſabeth, who was proud of tracing her deſcent from the Britiſh line:

Thy

* Letter from Lewis Morris to Edward Richard. Cambrian Regiſter for 1795, p. 347.

" Thy name, O ſoveraine Queene, thy realme and race,
" From this renowmed prince derived arre,
" Who mightily upheld that royall mace
" Which now thou bear'ſt, to thee deſcended farre
" From mighty kings and conquerours in warre,
" Thy fathers and grandfathers of old,
" Whoſe noble deeds above the northerne ſtarre,
" Immortall fame for ever hath enrold;
" As in that *old man's booke* they were in order told."

In this hiſtorical romance is alſo to be found, the affecting hiſtory of Leir king of Britain, the eleventh in ſucceſſion after Brutus, who divided his kingdom between Gonorilla and Regan his two elder daughters, and diſinherited his youngeſt daughter Cordeilla. Being ungratefully treated by his elder daughters, he was reſtored to the crown by Cordeilla, who eſpouſed Aganippus king of the Franks *. From this account the divine bard of Avon ſelected his incomparable tragedy of king Lear; but improved the pathos by making the death of Cordeilla (which name he ſoftened after the example of Spenſer into Cordelia) precede that of Lear, while in the original ſtory, the aged father is reſtored to his kingdom, and ſurvived by Cordeilla.

Milton ſeems to have been particularly fond of Geoffrey's tales, to which he was indebted for the beautiful fiction of Sabrina in the maſk of Comus. In his youth he even formed the deſign of making the early period of the Britiſh hiſtory, from Brutus to Arthur, the ſubject of an epic poem†. The poetical language of

* Book ii. chap. xi. xii. xiii. Shakſpeare probably took the firſt hint of the tragedy of king Lear from Spenſer's Faerie Queene, who in the thirteenth canto of the ſecond book, gives from Geoffrey a brief account of king Leir. He might have conſulted a tranſlation of Geoffrey of Monmouth, but he was principally indebted to Hollingſhed, who tranſcribed it from Geoffrey's work, and alſo the " Trew Chro-" nicle Hiſtory of king Leir and his three daughters, " Gonerill, Ragan and Cordella," printed in 1605; but all theſe authors have copied the original hiſtory. Tate has followed their example, altered Shakſpeare's tragedy according to the ſtory, and reſtored Lear to his kingdom, and Cordelia to life. This alteration was alſo adopted by Garrick, and has been ſince uniformly followed, but according to the opinion of Addiſon, the tragedy has loſt half its beauty. See Stevens's Shakſpeare.

† In his Epitaphium Damonis he ſays,

" Ite domum impaſti, domino jam non vacat, agni,
" Ipſe ego Dardanias Rutupina per æquora puppes
" Dicam, et Pandraſidos regnum vetus Imogeniæ
" Brenumque Arviragumque duces priſcumque Be-
" linum,
" Et tandem armoricos Britonum ſub lege colonos;
" Tu gravidam Arturo fatali fraude Iögernem,
" Mendaces vultus, aſſumptaque Gorloïs arma
" Merlini dolus."

of Milton was peculiarly ſuited to this ſpecies of romance; he would have exalted the legends of Geoffrey, and enriched with the fineſt imagery the incantations and prophecies of Merlin, the heroic deeds of Vortimer, Aurelius, and Uther Pendragon;

" and what reſounds,
" In fable or romance, of Uther's ſon,
" Begirt with Britiſh and Armoric knights."

But we have no reaſon to regret that in his more mature age he relinquiſhed this deſign, and compoſed an epic poem on a ſtill more ſublime plan:

" Of man's firſt diſobedience, and the fruit
" Of that forbidden tree, whoſe mortal taſte
" Brought death into the world, and all our woe,
" With loſs of Eden."——

Dryden compoſed a dramatic opera on the ſubject of king Arthur, or the Britiſh Worthy, whom he has finely deſcribed;

" in battle brave
" But ſtill ſerene in all the ſtormy war,
" Like heaven above the clouds; and after fight
" As merciful and kind to vanquiſh'd foe
" As a forgiving God."

He intended alſo to write an epic poem, either on the ſubject of Arthur, or of the Black Prince. This great author, who poſſeſſed the true taſte of poetry, and excelled in " that fairy kind of writing which depends upon the force of imagination," propoſed to introduce as ſupernatural agents, the guardian angels of kingdoms, or tutelary genii, and thus accommodate to chriſtian uſe the philoſophy of Plato.

At one period of his life, Pope reſolved to undertake what Milton and Dryden relinquiſhed. He even drew a plan of an epic poem on the ſubject of Brutus and the eſtabliſhment of the Britiſh monarchy, which is publiſhed by Ruffhead; it is extenſive and diverſified, and capable of great effect if wrought with fancy, ſpirit, and dignity. Although the poetical powers of Pope were inferior to thoſe of Milton and Dryden; yet he has given evident proofs that he poſſeſſed

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

CHURCH OF St THOMAS, AND MONNOW BRIDGE, MONMOUTH.

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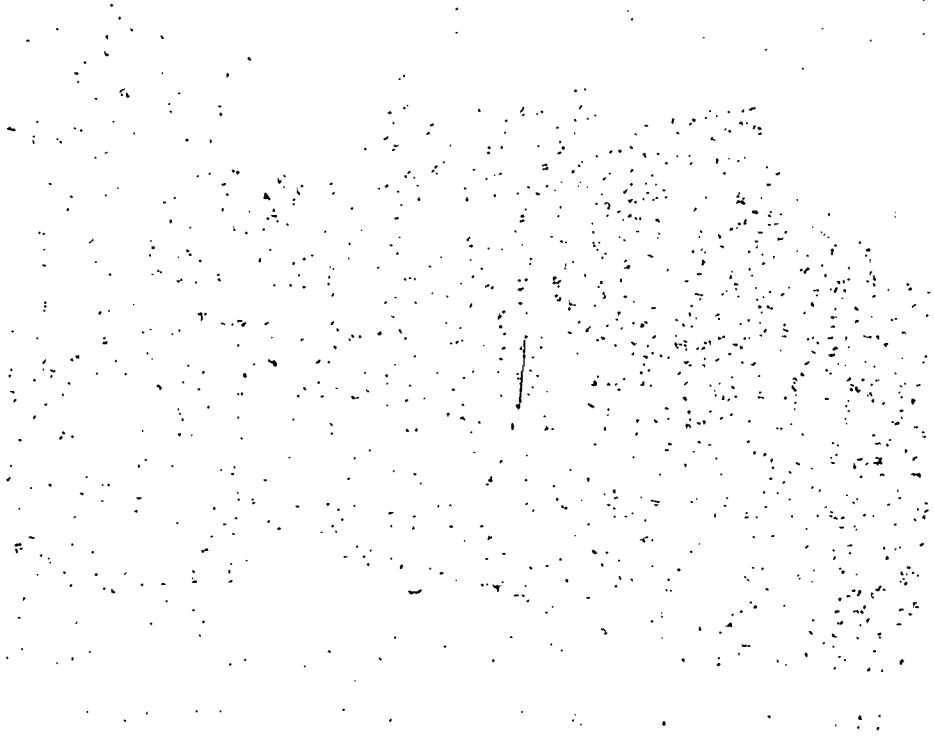

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t *W. Byrne Sculp.t*

INSIDE OF S.t THOMAS'S CHURCH.

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the genius of invention, by the beautiful machinery of the ſylphs and gnomes in the Rape of the Lock. I feel much regret that Dryden or Pope did not proceed in their intended work, as we have no epic poem in our language on any great ſubject of national hiſtory, except the miſerable productions of Blackmore *.

The ſuburbs of Monmouth ſtretch beyond the Monnow, and occupy the ſite of what was probably the Britiſh town during the Saxon æra. Near the bridge of the Monnow ſtands the ancient church of St. Thomas; the ſimplicity of its form, the circular ſhape of the doorways and of the arch ſeparating the nave from the chancel, and the ſtyle of their ornaments, which bear a Saxon character, ſeem to indicate that it was conſtructed before the conqueſt. The weſtern window, as well as ſome of the other apertures, which are ornamented gothic, have been evidently formed ſince the original foundation †. This church, which is in the dioceſe of Landaff, is now a chapel of eaſe to St. Mary's, and divine ſervice is performed in it every Tueſday.

The walks in the vicinity of Monmouth are extremely pleaſant, particularly Chippenham meadow, which is a general rendezvous for company at the cloſe of ſummer evenings; it is a flat oval plain, incloſed between the Wy, the Monnow, and the ſouth ſide of the town; at the ſouth-eaſtern extremity, the Monnow falls into the Wy, beneath a group of fine elms, which riſe near the banks of the Trothy. The meadow is ſkirted by gentle eminences, feathered with underwood, or clothed with hanging groves of oak and elm; theſe are ſurmounted by higher ridges of hills and mountains, all mantled with wood, except the Craig y Dorth, the Kymin, and the Trelech hills. The general poſition of the ſurrounding eminences and diſtant hills, may be ſeen from the annexed ſketch, taken by Mr. Owen Tudor, bookſeller at Monmouth.

The proſpects from the hills in the vicinity differ from thoſe to which I had hitherto been accuſtomed in Monmouthſhire; the country appears leſs wild and romantic, the eminences more thickly clothed with wood, the rivers leſs rapid

* Ruffhead's life of Pope, p. 409, 424. Johnſon's life of Pope, p. 125.

† See the annexed views: 1. Of the outſide of the church. 2. Inſide. 3. The elevation of the doors, on the plate which contains the view of the hills in the environs of Monmouth.

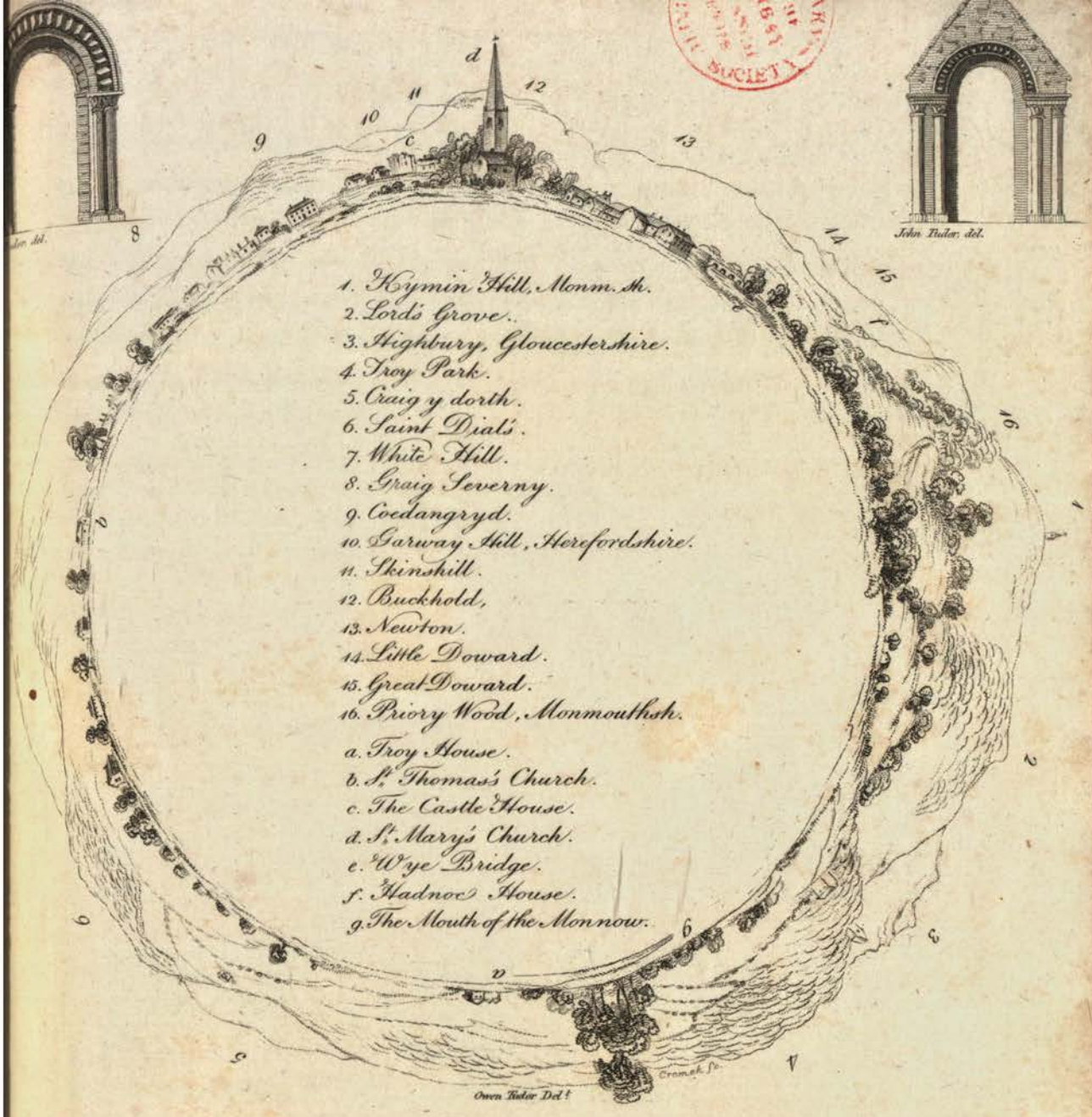
rapid and impetuous, and the views partake more of the mild caſt of Engliſh ſcenery. In ſpring, the beauty of the proſpect is conſiderably increaſed by the bloom of the apple trees; from the heights above the numerous orchards appear at ſome diſtance like parterres of flowers, in the midſt of lawns and groves, and the whole country ſpreads beneath like a rich and extenſive garden.

If among theſe views one can be ſelected ſurpaſſing the reſt, it is perhaps that from the ſummit of the Kymin, which riſes from the left bank of the Wy, and is ſituated partly in Monmouthſhire and partly in Gloceſterſhire. On the center of this eminence overhanging the river and town, a pavilion has been recently conſtructed by ſubſcription, to which is carried a walk, gently winding up the acclivity.

The pavilion is a circular edifice, like an embattled tower; it contains two ſtories, of which the lower is a kitchen, and the upper a banqueting apartment, provided with five windows, commanding different views over Monmouthſhire, Gloceſterſhire, and Herefordſhire, backed by the diſtant counties of Worceſter, Salop, Radnor, Brecon, Glamorgan, and Somerſet. I had the pleaſure of dining in this delightful apartment, with a company of the Monmouth corps of volunteers, who aſſembled in celebration of the king's birth day.

I ſhall not attempt to deſcribe the unbounded expanſe of country which preſents itſelf around and beneath, and embraces a circumference of nearly three hundred miles. The eye ſatiated with the diſtant proſpect, repoſes at length on the near views, dwells on the country immediately beneath and around, is attracted with the pleaſing poſition of Monmouth, here ſeen to ſingular advantage, admires the elegant bend and ſilvery current of the Monnow, gliſtening through meads, in its courſe towards the Wy, and the junction of the two rivers, which form an aſſemblage of beautiful objects.

The level ſummit of the Kymin is crowned with a beautiful wood, called Beaulieu Grove, through which walks are made terminating in ſeats, placed at the edge of abrupt declivities, and preſenting in perſpective, through openings in the trees, portions of the unbounded expanſe ſeen from the pavilion. There are ſix of theſe openings, three of which comprehend perſpective views of Monmouth,



View of the Hills in the Environs of Monmouth.

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muth, ſtretching between the Wy and the Monnow, in different poſitions. At one of theſe ſeats placed on a ledge of impending rocks, I looked down on a hanging wood, clothing the ſides of the declivity, and ſloping gradually to the Wy, which ſweeps in a beautiful curve, from Dixon church to the mouth of the Monnow; the town appears ſeated on its banks, and beyond the luxuriant and undulating ſwells of Monmouthſhire, terminated by the Great and Little Skyrrid, the Black mountains, and the Sugar Loaf, in all the variety of ſublime and contraſted forms *.

* Mr. Heath has publiſhed a deſcriptive account of this pavilion, in which he gives a minute detail of the different objects ſeen from the five windows, and deſcribes the perſpective views from the ſeats in the Beaulieu Grove.

CHAPTER 32.

Monmouth, ancient Bleſtium.—A Saxon Fortreſs.—Ruins of the Caſtle.—Hiſtory.—Proprietors.—Anecdotes of Henry the Fifth before his Acceſſion.

MONMOUTH, or ſome ſpot in the vicinity, is ſuppoſed by Horſley and the beſt informed antiquaries, to be the ſite of a Roman ſtation, the Bleſtium of Antoninus. No Roman antiquities have, however, been found in this town; and the diſcovery of two coins of Conſtantine the Great in 1767, in the garden of the Rev. Mr. Crow, maſter of the free ſchool*, and one of Carauſius, now in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Parry, late mayor of the town, cannot be conſidered as ſufficient to confirm this opinion. The principal argument in its favour, is derived from the coincidence of its poſition with that of Bleſtium in the Itineraries†.

We know from hiſtorical record, that Monmouth was a fortreſs in early times, and one of the ſtrong holds occupied by the Saxons, to maintain their conqueſts between the Severn and the Wy, and prevent the incurſions of the Welſh.

The town appears to have been fortified with walls and a moat, except where it was ſecured by the river. In Leland's time, parts of the dilapidated walls were ſtill remaining, the moat entire, and the four gates ſtanding; which he calls the monk's gate, to the north, the eaſtern gate, the Wy gate, and the Monnow or weſtern gate: at preſent there are no veſtiges of the walls, and the only part of the

* Gough's Camden, vol. 2. p. 483.

† See the introductory chapter on the Roman ſtations and roads.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

MONMOUTH CASTLE, CHURCH, &c.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

BRIDGE OVER THE WYE AT MONMOUTH.

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the moat which can be traced, was pointed out to me by the Rev. Mr. Davis, vicar of St. Mary's, ſtretching from the back of White Croſs ſtreet, to the remains of an ancient gateway, in the ſtreet near the Roſs turnpike, and from thence to the Wy. Of the four gates, mentioned by Leland, that called Monk's gate, which derived its appellation from the adjoining priory, ſtood near the Hereford road, but is now demoliſhed; parts of two round towers which flanked the eaſtern gate, are viſible at the place above mentioned near the Roſs turnpike. I could not diſcover the ſmalleſt veſtiges or even tradition of the ſituation of the Wy gate; but the Monnow gate is ſtill entire, and with the bridge on which it is built, bears the appearance of high antiquity; the circular form of the arches and maſſive ſolidity of the ſtructure, prove it anterior to the conqueſt; it commanded the paſſage of the Monnow, and was a barrier againſt the Welſh.

The ruins of Monmouth caſtle, conſtructed with red grit ſtone, ſtand on the ridge of an eminence overlooking the Monnow and the adjacent meadows, and are ſo much concealed by other buildings, as ſcarcely to be viſible from the ſide of the town; the beſt view of them is from the right bank of the Monnow, where they preſent an appearance of dilapidated grandeur, which recals to memory the times of feudal magnificence. The preſent remains are ſtill conſiderable, but principally covered with tenements, ſtables, and out-houſes. Although the whole roof and parts of the ſide walls are fallen, yet the ſite of two remarkable apartments can be traced with exactneſs; one in which Henry the fifth was born, and the other adjoining to it, which, within the memory of ſeveral inhabitants, was uſed for the aſſizes, and was not leſs than ſixty-three feet in length and forty-ſix in breadth.

The apartment which gave birth to the Gwentonian hero, was an upper ſtory, and the beams that ſupported the floor ſtill project from the ſide walls; it was fifty-eight feet long, twenty-four broad, and was decorated with ornamented gothic windows, of which ſome are ſtill remaining, and ſeem to be of the age of Henry the third. The walls of this part are not leſs than ten feet in thickneſs. About fifty years ago, a conſiderable portion of the ſouthern wall fell down

down with a tremendous crash, which alarmed the whole town, leaving a breach not less than forty feet in length. On the ground floor beneath are three circular arches terminating in chinks, which have a very ancient appearance, as may be seen from the inside view *; at the north-eastern angle within a stable, is a round tower six feet in diameter, which was once a staircase leading to the grand apartment.

To the right of the apartment, which gave birth to Henry the fifth, a house, tenanted by Mr. Cecil of the Dyffrin, occupies part of the ancient site: in the house and cellar may be traced vestiges of the original walls, and their massive structure is worthy of particular observation; they are from six to ten feet in thickness, formed of pebbles and mortar, in the manner of Vitruvius, and are so closely compacted as not to yield in hardness to stone itself.

Camden erroneously ascribes the construction of this edifice to John of Monmouth, in the reign of Henry the third, by whom it was only repaired: some antiquaries, in the contrary extreme, attribute it to the Romans. From the general aspect of the ruins, the castle was undoubtedly founded at a very early period, and afterwards considerably altered and augmented; the greater part of the doorways and windows are indeed gothic, yet some of a circular shape bear a Saxon character.

The history of the castle will, perhaps, be a better criterion to ascertain the æra of its construction.

A castle existed at Monmouth at a very early period, which retained in subjection the neighbouring districts, then included in the county of Hereford; at the time of the Norman conquest † it probably belonged to the king; for in Domesday Book, under Herefordshire, four caracutes of land, in the castle of Monmouth, part of the royal demesne, were given in custody to William Fitz Baderon, who possessed two lordships in Herefordshire and twelve in Gloucestershire. His son William, as well as all his successors, were surnamed de Monmoth, from

* See the plate containing the view of the environs of Monmouth.

† "In Castello de Monemude habet Rex in dominio IIII Caracutas, Wilhelmus Filius Baderon custodit eas." Domesday Book, p. 182.

from this caſtle; it continued in the poſſeſſion of his deſcendants till the reign of Henry the third, when John de Monmouth was the proprietor.

During the civil wars which diſtracted his long and weak reign, Monmouth caſtle was occaſionally beſieged and occupied by both parties: in theſe conteſts it ſuffered repeated demolitions, of which one inſtance is recorded by Lambarde. "The citie had once a caſtle in it, where in tyme of Hen. III. Richard th erle marſhal aſſociatinge to him other noblemen, and mouinge warre againſt the kinge, for that he more eſtimed ſtrangers borne, then his natural ſubjects, gave him a ſharpe conflicte and ſlew ſundry of his ſouldiors. Not long after th erle of Glouceſter having forſaken th erle of Leyceſter, took for his ſuccour the ſame caſtle and fortified it; but Symon ſpeedily following, aſſailed, toke, and raiſed it to the ground. *Thus the glorie of Monmouth had cleane periſhed, ne had it pleaſed God longe after in that place to give life to the noble kinge Hen. V.* who, of the ſame, is called Henry of Monmouth *."

In theſe times of civil diſcord, Monmouth caſtle was an object of ſuch conſequence to the royal party, that John de Monmouth having no iſſue male, was induced to reſign the caſtle and honour to prince Edward, and his heirs for ever, in conſideration of certain lands granted for life †.

In

* Lambarde's Dictionary. Leland alſo ſays, under the year 1264, "Abowte this tyme Simon Montfort enterid the caſtle of Monmouth and racid it." Leland, Collect. vol. 1. fol. 661.

† PROPRIETORS OF MONMOUTH CASTLE.

BADERON.
- William of Monmouth.
- Wihenoc.
- Baderon, Temp. H. 2.
- Gilbert.
- John, d. 1248.
- John, d. 1257, reſigned Monmouth to Edward I.

HENRY III.
- Edward I.
- Edmund Crouchback, b. 1245, d. 1296.
  - Thomas, beh. 1322.
  - Henry, d. 1345.
    - Henry, 1ſt Duke of Lancaſter, d. 1362.
      - Maud, m. 1. Ralph, ſon of Ralph Lord Stafford; 2. William Duke of Zealand, d. without iſſue.
      - Blanch = John of Gaunt.
        - Henry IV.
          - Henry V.

In 1267, on the ſurrender of prince Edward, Henry the third granted the caſtle of Monmouth, together with many other poſſeſſions, to his younger ſon Edmund Crouchback, earl of Lancaſter, and the grant was confirmed by Edward the firſt in the fifth year of his reign. Edmund left two ſons, Thomas, beheaded for high treaſon, and Henry who obtained the caſtle of Monmouth, and thoſe parts of his father's property not confiſcated on his brother's attainder; he increaſed his poſſeſſions and influence in Wales, by eſpouſing Maud, daughter and heireſs of ſir Patrick Chaworth. He died in 1345; his ſon Henry, before created earl of Derby and Lincoln, ſucceeded to his eſtates and honours, and added ſtill greater dignity to his illuſtrious family; he was the firſt duke of Lancaſter, and the ſecond peer raiſed to the ducal title *. Edward the third, in the twenty-fifth year of his reign, erected the county of Lancaſter into a palatinate, granting to the duke for life regal rights and other privileges, and decreed that the duchy ſhould be governed by its own officers.

His vaſt poſſeſſions were divided between his two daughters, Maud and Blanch; but Maud dying without iſſue, the whole property devolved on John of Ghent or Gaunt, third ſon of Edward the third, and huſband of Blanch. He was created duke of Lancaſter, obtained a grant of the jura regalia in perpetuity for the duchy, and a releaſe of the eſtates forfeited to the crown on the attainder of Thomas.

After the death of Blanch, he eſpouſed Conſtantia daughter of Peter the cruel, king of Caſtile, and in 1386 aſſumed the regal title, which he afterwards reſigned, but was amply indemnified by the marriage of his daughter Catherine with Henry the third, king of Spain, the acquiſition of a conſiderable treaſure †, and the dignity of duke of Aquitain. He died in 1399, and his royal alliances, and great riches, which far exceeded thoſe of any other ſubject, contributed to raiſe his ſon Henry to the throne.

Monmouth

* Edward the Black Prince was the firſt Engliſh duke, under the title of duke of Cornwall.

† "Its ſaid that he had forty-ſeven mules laden with cheſts full of gold, for his ſecond payment; and divers great men of Spaine as pledges for the yearly payment of ſixteen thouſand marks, for his life, and in caſe his wife ſhould ſurvive him, ſhe to have twelve thouſand marks yearly." Dugdale's Baronage, vol. 2. p. 118.

Monmouth caſtle was a favourite reſidence of John of Gaunt and of his ſon Henry of Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry the fourth; but was more highly diſtinguiſhed as the birth-place of the hero of Agincourt, who from that circumſtance was ſtyled Henry of Monmouth.

He was born in 1387, and ſeems to have paſſed his infancy in Monmouthſhire. During the ſhort period which elapſed between his father's baniſhment and acceſſion to the throne, he was educated in the court of his couſin Richard the ſecond, who treated him with the warmeſt marks of affection. According to a contemporary hiſtorian *, the monarch was captivated with his ſpirit and underſtanding, frequently pointed him out, and prophetically obſerved, "We have heard that our England will produce a prince called Henry, who will be renowned for dignity of manners, ſplendour of action, and military ſkill, and we conclude infallibly that this is the Henry thus predicted."

Soon after the acceſſion of his father, Henry ſtudied at Oxford under his uncle cardinal Beaufort, chancellor of that univerſity, and as Stowe affirms, "delighted in ſongs, meeters, and muſical inſtruments †." From Speed we alſo learn, that "he had in great veneration ſuch as excelled in virtue or learning, particularly Thomas Rodban of Merton college, a great aſtronomer, whom he afterwards preferred to the biſhoprick of St. David's; and John Carpenter of Oriel, a learned doctour in theology, whom he advanced to the ſee of Worceſter ‡."

Henry is thus deſcribed by Stowe, on the authority of Thomas de Elmham: "This prince exceeded the meane ſtature of men, he was beautifull of viſage, his necke long, body ſlender and leane, and his bones ſmall; nevertheleſſe he was of marvellous great ſtrength, and paſſing ſwift in running, inſomuch that he with two other of his lords, without hounds, bow, or other engine, would take a wilde bucke or doe in a large parke."

At a very early period he was initiated in the uſe of arms, and before he attained the age of ſixteen, gave, at the memorable battle of Shrewſbury, a noble ſpecimen of heroic intrepidity, which augured his future renown. In the midſt

* Thomas de Elmham, Vita Henrici Quinti, c. 2. † Annales, p. 342. ‡ Speed, chap. 15.

midſt of the battle, the king being beſet by a powerful corps of the enemy, was in imminent danger; young Henry flew to his aſſiſtance, ruſhed into the adverſe ranks, and was wounded dangerouſly in the face with an arrow. Being exhorted by his followers to retire, he refuſed to ſet an example of flight; "Convey me," he exclaimed, "I exhort you, into the midſt of the enemy, that I may ſay to my companions in arms, follow me your leader into the combat; I had rather expoſe myſelf to the danger of fortune, than by flying bring ignominy on the military profeſſion." He then precipitated himſelf into the ranks of the enemy; the rebels were diſperſed, their chief fell in the field of battle, and the king obtained the victory by the means of his ſon *.

He afterwards ſignaliſed himſelf at the head of the army againſt the followers of Owen Glendower, whom he defeated in various encounters, and finally quelled the rebellion of that lawleſs chief. He no leſs diſtinguiſhed himſelf againſt the Scots, made a ſucceſsful inroad into their country, compelled them to offer terms of peace, took hoſtages for their fidelity, and returned to London loaded with booty †.

Theſe repeated ſucceſſes, aided by courteſy and condeſcenſion, increaſed his popularity, and excited the jealouſy of his ſuſpicious father, who excluded him from his counſels, and placed his principal confidence in his other ſons. Being thus reduced to a ſtate of idleneſs, the active ſpirit of the young prince broke out into exceſſes unbecoming his birth and injurious to his reputation ‡; but on his acceſſion to the throne, his conduct proved that theſe exceſſes were the frolics of youth, and not the effects of a vicious mind.

Sudden

* Thomas de Elmham.

† Polydore Virgil, p. 435.

‡ The licentiouſneſs of his conduct has been highly exaggerated; for it has even been ſaid, and hiſtory has recorded the report, "that he ſcrupled not to aſſociate with the moſt diſſolute perſons, and to accompany them in attacking paſſengers in the ſtreets, and deſpoiling them of their goods." But if we conſult contemporary writers, and the early hiſtorians, we ſhall find the fact differently ſtated. Stowe ſeems to have approached nearer the truth, when he obſerves, "of Henry the fifth it is ſaid, "He lived ſomewhat inſolently, inſomuch that whileſt his father lived, being accompanyed with ſome of his young lords and gentlemen, he would waite in diſguiſed array for his own receivers and diſtreſſe them of their money, and ſometimes at ſuch enterpriſes both he and his companions were ſorely beaten: and when his receivers made to him their complaints, that they were robbed in their coming unto him, he would give them diſcharge of ſo much money as they had loſt, and beſides that they ſhould not depart from him without great rewards for their trouble and vexation, eſpecially they ſhould bee rewarded that beſt had reſiſted him and his company, and of whom he had received the greateſt and moſt ſtrokes." Stowe's Chronicle, p. 342.

Sudden and extraordinary converſions from vice to virtue are as uncommon as they are uſually temporary; yet the inſtantaneous tranſition of Henry the fifth from his former licentiouſneſs to a ſober and dignified conduct, is too well authenticated to admit of the ſmalleſt doubt.

The account given by a contemporary writer* of the cauſes which effected this change, is ſo ſimple and natural as to carry internal conviction of truth. During the illneſs of Henry the fourth, the prince attended him with filial affection: as he ſtood near his bed with the prieſt who was preparing the ſacrament, the king, whoſe eyes were dim with age, enquired what the prieſt was doing; "ſir," replied the prince, "he has juſt conſecrated the body of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; I beſeech you devoutly to adore him, under whom kings reign, and princes have dominion." The king inſtantly lifted up his hands, and praying fervently, ſaid, "my ſon approach and kiſs me;" and when he had kiſſed him, he with a trembling voice, which announced his approaching diſſolution, ſaid, "the bleſſing, my ſon, which Iſaac gave to his ſon Jacob, fall upon you, and may God grant you a good and proſperous reign." The prince, obſerving his father in the agonies of death, retired with grief and anguiſh into a ſmall chapel; throwing himſelf on his knees, and ſtriking his breaſt, with tears of contrition he acknowledged his paſt miſconduct, declared his reſolution of future amendment, and called upon God to pardon his offences.

In this manner he paſſed the whole day, and at night repaired ſecretly to a prieſt, remarkable for his ſanctity, confeſſed his ſins, received abſolution, and, to uſe the figurative language of the biographer, returned to his palace, having thrown off the garment of vice, and put on the robe of righteouſneſs †. With a view

* Thomas de Elmham.

† Elmham, Vita Henrici Quinti, c. 7. p. 25. "Exutus viciorum diploide, virtutum clamide redit decentur ornatus."

Henry the fifth bore a beacon or a creſſet light burning for one of his badges; the meaning of which is thus explained in a manuſcript account of the arms and badges of the kings of England. "Henry V. by reaſon of his diſſolute life in the tyme of his father's reigne, when after the death of the ſayd king his father, he was anoynted and crowned monarch of this realme, betook unto himſelf for his badge or cognizance, a creſcet light burnynge, ſhewinge thereby that although his vertuous and good parts had been formerly

view to ſtrengthen his reſolution, he neither eat or drank, at a ſumptuous entertainment which he gave in Weſtminſter hall, ſoon after his coronation, and continued his faſt three days and nights; during which time he never retired to reſt, but with faſting, vigils, and prayers, fervently implored the divine aſſiſtance in the government of his kingdom *.

After the ceremony of his coronation, he received the ſacrament with ſo much devotion and humility, that ſeveral of the ſpectators were affected even unto tears †. Nor was his reſolution of amendment a tranſitory fit of enthuſiaſm; his repentance produced a ſuitable practice, and his conduct did not belie his profeſſions.

The firſt public proof which he gave of this change in his ſentiments and behaviour, was the diſmiſſion of his diſſolute companions. "After his coronation," ſays Stowe, "he called unto him all thoſe young lords and gentlemen, that were the followers of his young acts, to every one of whom he gave rich and bounteous gifts, and then commanded that as many as would change their manners as hee intended to doe, ſhould abide with him in his court, and to all that would perſevere in their former light converſation, hee gave expreſſe commandment, upon paine of their heads, never after that day to come into his preſence ‡."

Henry the fifth is uſually celebrated only for his military proweſs, while the milder

formerly obſcured, and lay as a dead cole wanting light to kindle it, by reaſon of tender yeares and evell company, that notwithſtanding he beinge now come to his perfecter yeares and riper underſtandinge, had ſhaken off his evell counſellors, and being now in his high impérial throne, that his vertues, which before had layne dead, ſhould now, by his righteous raigne, ſhyne as the light of *creſcet*, which is no ordinary light; meaning alſo, that he ſhould be a light and guide to his people to follow him in all vertue and honour."

Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, vol. 1. p. 69.

* Theſe circumſtances are finely repreſented by the divine bard, who has delineated his character with no leſs hiſtorical truth than poetical enthuſiaſm:

"The courſes of his youth promis'd it not:
"The breath no ſooner left his father's body,
"But that his wildneſs, mortified in him,
"Seem'd to die too: yea, at that very moment,
"Conſideration like an angel came,
"And whipp'd the offending Adam out of him;
"Leaving his body as a paradiſe,
"To envelop, and contain celeſtial ſpirits.
"Never was ſuch a ſudden ſcholar made;
"Never came reformation in a flood,
"With ſuch a heady current, ſcouring faults,
"Nor ever Hydra-headed wilfulneſs,
"So ſoon did loſe his ſeat and all at once
"As in this king."

Shakſpeare, king Henry V.

† Elmham, chap. 11.

‡ Stowe's Hiſtory of Britain, p. 545.

milder qualities of juſtice and humanity, for which he was no leſs conſpicuous, are loſt in the ſplendour of his victorious career. He condemned the depoſition and impriſonment of Richard, and treated all concerned in his murder as traitors; as an atonement for his father's crimes, and to evince his own reſpect to Richard's memory, he ordered his corpſe to be magnificently interred in Weſtminſter abbey, among his royal anceſtors; and attended the funeral, declaring, "that he mourned as truly for him as if he had been his natural father."

Although conſcious that Edmund earl of March was rightful heir to the crown, yet he releaſed him from his confinement, and treated him with ſo much kindneſs, that the young nobleman forgot his prior title, and gratefully ſerved his royal benefactor with inviolable attachment. Compaſſionating the misfortunes of the Percys, he recalled the ſon and heir of Hotſpur from Scotland, and reinveſted him with the honours and eſtate of his anceſtors *.

He was no leſs remarkable for juſtice: "Every day after dinner," ſays Speed, "for the ſpace of an houre, his cuſtom was to leane on a cuſhion ſet by his cupbord, and there he himſelfe received petitions of the oppreſſed, which with great equitie he did redreſſe †."

It is needleſs to enlarge on the incidents of his reign, which are ſo well known; I ſhall therefore only conſider him as duke of Lancaſter and lord of Monmouth caſtle ‡. His father created him duke of Lancaſter, which title he bore in conjunction with thoſe of prince of Wales, and duke of Cornwall; he alſo ſevered by act of parliament the duchy from the crown, confirming, in its full latitude, the charter of privileges, granted by Richard the ſecond to John of Gaunt, and decreeing that it ſhould be governed by its own chancery or court.

Henry the fifth enlarged the duchy with the eſtates which he inherited from his

* Hiſtory of England, vol. 2, p. 674.

† Speed, p. 767.

‡ The archives contain a ſingular grant of Henry the fourth, as lord of the manor, to the burgeſſes of Monmouth, "that the brewers of ale there, who were anciently held to pay to the king's anceſtors and progenitors eight gallons of ale at every brewing, in the name of caſtle coule, during the time the king or his heirs were dwelling in the ſaid town, ſhould now pay in lieu thereof 1o d. each brewing, except when the king, his heirs, or his councils holding his ſeſſions there, were preſent in the ſaid town, in which caſe the ancient cuſtom of caſtle coule ſhould be obſerved."

his mother Mary, ſiſter and coheireſs of Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford, and obtained an act of parliament that all grants of offices and eſtates ſhould paſs under the ſeal of the duchy.

The duchy of Lancaſter, and the caſtle of Monmouth, as parcel of that duchy, were inherited by Henry the ſixth. Edward the fourth deemed the title and eſtate forfeited by the attainder of Henry the ſixth; and by act of parliament appropriated and united the eſtates to the crown, and annexed the county palatine, which had been governed by ſeparate courts, to the duchy, under the ſame chancery. In the fifth year of his reign he granted the caſtle of Monmouth, in tail male, to William lord Herbert *, afterwards earl of Pembroke; but it again reverted to the crown, and formed as before parcel of the duchy of Lancaſter, which Henry the ſeventh inherited as king. He repealed the act and entail of Edward the fourth, again ſeparated the duchy from the crown, and entailed it on himſelf and his heirs; ſince which period, except during the time of the uſurpation, it has continued in the crown, though under the management of diſtinct officers.

The caſtle, however, together with ſeveral other † poſſeſſions in the county of Monmouth, has been alienated from the duchy and become private property; but at what period this ſeparation took place I cannot aſcertain, after the minuteſt reſearches in the archives. It appears from numerous grants, that the caſtle was parcel of the duchy during the reign of Eliſabeth, and that in the 11th of James I, it was preſented under a commiſſion as belonging to the duchy ‡.

Before the end of the laſt century, we find it in the poſſeſſion of Henry, the firſt

* Archives, Rot. 4.

† James the firſt granted ſome very extenſive and valuable domains of the duchy, together with divers crown lands, to truſtees, to maintain his ſons prince Henry and prince Charles. James I, afterwards took large fines for leaſes of duchy eſtates, upon contracts for 60 years; and alſo made grants in fee to all who ſhould become purchaſers upon his terms; ſo that Charles the firſt found the duchy poſſeſſions reduced to little more than the eſtates compriſed in his own ſettlement, and the leaſes for 60 years. Charles the firſt raiſed conſiderable ſums by ſelling the duchy inheritance: no part was preſerved but a few foreſts and parks, the eſtates which went to queen Henrietta in jointure, and thoſe compriſed in the leaſes for 60 years granted by James the firſt. Charles the ſecond made extenſive grants, and ſigned many leaſes for 99 years. William alſo alienated many of thoſe lands which were ſettled on queen Catherine. An act in the firſt of Anne, reſtrained the crown from granting leaſes for more than 31 years.

‡ "Item, we preſent that his majeſtie hath one ancient caſtell called Monmouth caſtell, ſituated within the liberties of the ſaid towne, which is nowe and hath been

firſt duke of Beaufort, as appears from a ſingular anecdote recorded in the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire. " The marchioneſs of Worceſter was ordered by her grandfather the late duke of Beaufort, to lie in of her firſt child in a houſe lately built within the caſtle of Monmouth, near that ſpot of ground and ſpace of air, where our great hero Henry V. was born *." His illuſtrious deſcendant the duke of Beaufort is the preſent proprietor. The caſtle was once ſurrounded by a moat, of which veſtiges remain to the weſt and ſouth-weſt, in the grounds of Mr. Hughes and Mr. Hopkins, at the bottom of the mound on which the ruins are ſituated.

Within the ſite of the ancient walls, is a handſome edifice of ſtone, called the Caſtle Houſe, built partly from the foundations and remains. According to the date over the door, it was conſtructed in 1673, and is now occupied by Mrs. Eliſabeth Tudor, miſtreſs of the moſt reſpectable ſchool for young ladies in this part of England. The apartments are commodious and well proportioned, and ſeveral ſtuccoed cielings, richly ornamented with wreaths and feſtoons of flowers, are not unworthy of notice. The houſe ſtanding on the brow of the eminence, and in the higheſt part of the town, is a ſtriking object from the ſubjacent grounds.

been for a long time ruinous and in decaye, but by whome it hath byn decayed wee knowe not, nor to what value, in regarde it was before our remembrement, ſavinge one greate hall which is covered and mayntayned for the judges of the aſſiſe to ſitt in. And for and concerning any demean lands, belonginge to the ſame caſtell, we knowe not of any more ſave only the caſtle hill, wherein divers have gardens, and the caſtle green, which is incloſed within the walls of the ſaid caſtle."

Inquiſition, 11 James 1, Archives.

* P. 82.

CHAPTER 33.

Branches of the Herbert Family.—Powells of Perthîr.—Anecdote of Mr. Proger.—Troy Houſe.—Collection of Portraits.—Treowen.—Wonaſtow Houſe.—Families of Herbert and Milborne.—Excurſion to Trelech.—Road from Chepſtow to Monmouth.

THE family of Herbert, which ſeems to have been firſt eſtabliſhed at Werndee, was remarkable for its multifarious branches, and occupied, under the names of Herbert, Jones, Powell and Proger, numerous ſeats in this country. In the vicinity of Monmouth ſeveral places are diſtinguiſhed, which once formed the reſidence of theſe various branches; moſt of which, from various cauſes, particularly from the extinction of the male line, have been conveyed to other families, but ſtill retain traces of their former diſtinction; this chapter will contain an account of the principal: Perthîr, Troy Houſe, Treowen, and Wonaſtow.

In company with the Rev. William Roberts, who reſides at Perthîr, and to whom I was indebted for various communications, I walked to this ancient place, which is ſituated two miles from Monmouth, in a fertile plain, to the right of the road leading to Groſmont, not far from the banks of the Monnow. He introduced me to John Powell Lorimer, eſq. the preſent proprietor, who favoured me with a friendly reception, permitted me to inſpect his pedigree, and gave me all the information concerning his family, which the ſcanty documents in his poſſeſſion enabled him to afford.

Perthîr, which once vied with Werndee as the moſt ancient ſeat of the Herbert family, appears to have been the reſidence of Gwillim, ſon of Jenkin, lord of Werndee. His grandſon Howell ap Thomas was lord of Perthîr, and anceſtor of the

the line who reſided at this manſion. His ſon William, (called in the Welch pedigrees, ap Howell ap Thomas ap Gwillim) firſt adopted a ſurname after the Engliſh cuſtom, and changed his patronymic ap Howell into Powell, by which name this branch has been ſince diſtinguiſhed; he was killed at the battle of Banbury, under the ſtandard of his couſin the earl of Pembroke. His lineal deſcendant John Powell, eſq. dying without iſſue male towards the beginning of this century, left four daughters, who were unmarried, and the eſtate came to the family of Lorimer ſeated at Newbolds * in the vicinity, one of whoſe anceſtors had eſpouſed a Powell of Perthîr.

A few remains of ancient magnificence appear in a gothic window of four compartments, with ſtone mouldings, which ſeems to be at leaſt as early as the reign of Henry the fifth; in the hall or paſſage, thirty-ſeven feet length and nine in breadth; in the wooden rafters, which contain timber ſufficient for four modern roofs; and particularly in the long and lofty hall, with a curious vaulted cieling, and a muſic gallery at one extremity, the windows of which are emblazoned with the Herbert arms †. There are a few family portraits; Mary, wife of John Powell, the laſt male of the family, and their four daughters, Mary, Bridget, Catherine, and Winifred, who died unmarried. There is alſo a head of the Rev. Matthew Prichard, a friar of the order of Recollets, and Roman catholic biſhop, long reſident at Perthîr, where he died in 1750, aged 81; he was buried in Rockfield church, under a ſepulchral ſtone, with a Latin inſcription, commemorating his profound learning, extenſive benevolence, and great attention to the duties of his paſtoral office.

The manſion is now conſiderably reduced from its former ſize and magnificence, which were equal to the ancient eſtates of the family, which were once ſo large, that according to tradition, they ſtretched from Perthîr to Roſs. The preſent proprietor took down a part of the houſe, which was much too large for his family, containing thirteen bed chambers, and other offices. The manſion was formerly

* I am informed by Mr. Roberts, that Newbolds was probably given in marriage with a daughter of Perthîr to an anceſtor of Mr. Lorimer. An old deed mentions William ap Howell, as "Dominus de Newbold & Perthyre, anno Henrici ſeptimi decimo."

† Theſe arms are now borne by Mr. Lorimer, with the Moor's head for a creſt, which is the ſame as that of the Jones's of Lanarth.

formerly ſurrounded by a moat, which was provided with two draw-bridges. The family being catholics, there was likewiſe an elegant gothic chapel, dedicated to St. Catherine, which was demoliſhed in 1745. A whole length portrait of St. Catherine, not ill executed, was the altar-piece, and is now uſed for the ſame purpoſe in an apartment of the houſe.

Mr. Lorimer pointed out to me a window remarkable for a curious anecdote, relating to the conteſt for precedence, between the rival houſes of Perthîr and Werndee, which though leſs bloody, was not leſs obſtinate, than that between the houſes of York and Lancaſter. Mr. Proger dining with a friend at Monmouth, propoſed riding to Werndee in the evening, but his friend objecting, becauſe it was late and likely to rain, Mr. Proger replied, " with regard to the lateneſs of the hour, we ſhall have moonlight, and ſhould it happen to rain, Perthîr is not far from the road, and my couſin Powell will, I am very ſure, give us a night's lodging." They accordingly mounted their horſes, but being ſoon overtaken by a violent ſhower, rode to Perthîr, and found all the family retired to reſt. Mr. Proger, however, calling to his couſin, Mr. Powell opened the window, and looking out, aſked, " in the name of wonder, what means all this noiſe? Who is there?" " It is only I, your couſin Proger of Werndee, who am come to your hoſpitable door for ſhelter from the inclemency of the weather, and hope you will be ſo kind as to give me and my friend a lodging." " What is it you couſin Proger? you and your friend ſhall be inſtantly admitted, but upon one condition, that you will allow, and never hereafter diſpute, that I am the head of the family." " What did you ſay?" returned Mr. Proger, " Why I ſay, if you expect to paſs the night in my houſe, you muſt allow that I am the head of the family." " No ſir, I never would admit that; were it to rain ſwords and daggers, I would ride this night to Werndee, rather than lower the conſequence of my family. Come up, Bald, come up." " Stop a moment, couſin Proger, have you not often confeſſed, that the firſt earl of Pembroke (of the name of Herbert) was the youngeſt ſon of Perthîr, and will you ſet yourſelf above the earls of Pembroke." " True, I muſt give place to the earl of Pembroke, becauſe he is a peer of the realm; but ſtill, though a peer, he is of the youngeſt

youngeſt branch of my family, being deſcended from the fourth ſon of Werndee, who was your anceſtor, and ſettled at Perthîr; whereas I am deſcended from the eldeſt ſon. Indeed my couſin Jones of Lanarth is of an older branch than you, and yet he never diſputes that I am the head of the family." "Why couſin Proger, I have nothing more to ſay, ſo good night to you." "Stop a moment, Mr. Powell," ſaid the ſtranger, "you ſee how it pours, do admit me at leaſt; I will not diſpute with you about our families." "Pray ſir, what is your name, and where do you come from?" "My name is * * * and I come from the county of * * *." "A Saxon of courſe; it would be very curious indeed ſir, ſhould I diſpute with a Saxon about families; no ſir, you muſt ſuffer for the obſtinacy of your friend, and ſo a pleaſant ride to you both."

Treowen, which I have already mentioned as being the ancient manſion of the family of Jones, ſeated at Lanarth, is delightfully ſituated about two miles from Wonaſtow, and three from Monmouth, and is now converted into a farm houſe. It was built by Inigo Jones, and was originally a large and ſplendid manſion; but a conſiderable part has been taken down ſince the reſidence was transferred to Lanarth. The number, ſize, height, and decorations of the apartments, and a grand ſtaircaſe of ſolid oak, diſplay the maſſive taſte and magnificence which reigned in the beginning of the ſixteenth century. The front of the houſe is faced with hewn ſtone, and diſtinguiſhed by a porch in the anglo-grecian ſtyle of architecture adopted by Inigo Jones. Over the entrance is a ſhield of arms in ſtone, charged with nine quarterings, of which the firſt, three lions rampant, is borne by the family of Jones, and proves their deſcent from the Herbert ſtock.

The grounds, which are converted into a farm, are finely diverſified, richly clothed with wood, and in the hands of Browne, might have become an ornament to the county.

Troy Houſe ſtands about a mile to the eaſt of Monmouth, near the ſmall river Trothy, from which it derives the name of Trothy, corrupted into Troy Houſe. An ancient gothic gateway, leading into the court, probably belonged to the manſion inhabited by the Herberts; but the preſent houſe is ſaid to have been built by Inigo Jones. It does not however reflect much credit on the taſte of that eminent architect, having a long ſtraggling front, and being

being built in ſo low a ſituation as to exclude all proſpect from the habitable apartments; a poſition which the architect muſt have taken ſome pains to ſelect, as in any other ſpot it would have commanded a pleaſing and extenſive view. The apartments are well proportioned and commodious, and not deficient in an air of ſtate and grandeur.

Thomas Herbert, ſon of ſir William ap Thomas, and brother of the earl of Pembroke, ſeems to have been proprietor of this place; according to William of Worceſter * he was ſquire for the body, ſerved in the French wars, under Richard duke of York, and Humphrey duke of Gloceſter, and died at Troy. On his death the eſtate probably came to his brother the earl of Pembroke; for his natural ſon ſir William Herbert is called, in a pedigree in the Heralds' office, ſir William Herbert of Troy. His ſon ſir Charles † married Eliſabeth, daughter of ſir Griffith Rhys, by whom he had John Herbert. Either the heireſs of the houſe eſpouſed a Powell, or his deſcendants aſſumed the name of Powell; for in the reign of James the firſt, Troy houſe was the property of ſir Charles Somerſet, ſixth ſon of Edward, fourth earl of Worceſter, in virtue of his marriage with Eliſabeth, daughter and heireſs of ſir William Powell, of Troy and Lanpylt ‡, in the county of Monmouth. Sir Charles was the brother of the venerable marquis who defended Raglan caſtle, and in the Apothegms is given a converſation between the marquis and Charles the firſt, upon the ſubject of ſome fruit, the produce of his gardens at Troy houſe, in which the marquis and his royal gueſt quibbled upon the name of Troy §.

Troy.

* Itin. p. 122.

† "Nere the towne ſir Charles Herbert of Troye dwelt in a faire ſeate called Troy." Churchyard, p. 53.

‡ Lanpylt or Lanpyll, is in the pariſh of Wolves Newton, and now belongs to the duke of Beaufort.

§ "Sir Thomas Somerſet, brother to the marquis of Worceſter, had a houſe which was called Troy, five miles from Raglan caſtle. This ſir Thomas being a complete gentleman, delighted much in fine gardens and orchards, where by the benefit of art, the earth was made ſo grateful to him at the ſame time, that the king (Charles the firſt) happened to be at his brother's houſe, that it yielded him wherewithal to ſend brother Worceſter a preſent; and ſuch an one as (the times and ſeaſons conſidered) was able to make the king believe, that the ſovereign of the planets had now changed the poles, and that Wales (the refuſe and outcaſt of the fair garden of England) had fairer and riper fruit than England's bowels had on all her beds. This preſent, given to the marquis, he would not offer to be preſented to the king by any other hand than his own, "Here I preſent you, ſir," ſaid the marquis, (placing his diſhes upon the table) "with that which came not from Lincoln that was, nor London that is, nor York that is to be, but from Troy." Whereupon the king ſmiled, and anſwered the marquis; "Truly, my lord, I have heard that corn grows where Troy town ſtood, but I never thought there had grown any apricots before."

Apothegms of the Earl of Worceſter.

Troy Houſe contains a large collection of family portraits. In the ſaloon, a half length of Henry, the ſecond earl of Worceſter, on wood; he is ſeated in an arm chair, his beard pointed; he is habited in a black dreſs, falling ſtiff ruff, with a rich ſword and belt: he died in 1549, and was buried in Chepſtow church. Edward, fourth earl of Worceſter, dreſſed in white, ſhort veſt, and trunk hoſe, with the ribband of the garter round his neck, as was the cuſtom in his days: he died in 1628, and was buried at Raglan. Eliſabeth Haſtings, his wife, in her wedding clothes; a curious mode of dreſs; a black coat trimmed with fur, ſleeves black and white in alternate ſquares; a black and white lace round her neck; ſhe holds in her hand a book, with rings on her fingers. Another portrait of the ſame lady in a more advanced age, alſo painted on wood, with a date of 1570*.

The moſt remarkable picture in the houſe is that of Edward earl of Glamorgan, ſixth earl and ſecond marquis of Worceſter, with his wife Eliſabeth, daughter of ſir William Dormer, knight, and one of their daughters. He is habited in a Roman military dreſs, his hair long and flowing, and holds in his hand a truncheon. An inſcription on the picture erroneouſly ſtyles him Edward, fourth earl of Worceſter, and he has been uſually miſcalled the marquis of Worceſter, who defended Raglan caſtle †. Henry, firſt duke of Beaufort, in the robes of the garter; he died in 1699. His wife Mary, daughter of Arthur lord Capel, the brave loyaliſt, who was beheaded by the parliament in 1648, and widow of Henry Seymour, lord Beauchamp; ſhe is ſitting in a white dreſs, with a black veil thrown back, and holds a book. Lord Arthur Somerſet, fifth ſon of Henry firſt duke, chriſtened after his uncle and godfather Arthur Capel, earl of Eſſex. Henry, ſecond duke, in his peer's robes, born in the caſtle of Monmouth 1684; he was ſon of Charles, marquis of Worceſter, who died before his father in 1698. His wife Rachel, daughter and coheir of Wriotheſley Baptiſt, earl of Gainſborough. Henry, third duke, in brown and gold, with a view of the Coliſeum in the back ground;

* This portrait is erroneouſly called Eliſabeth, daughter of ſir Anthony Brown, knight, wife of Henry, ſecond earl of Worceſter; but ſhe died in 1565, and the picture bears the date of 1570.

† See the character of the earl of Glamorgan, p. 150.

ground; he died in 1746. His brother Charles Noel, fourth duke, father to the preſent, in his robes; he diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the Houſe of Commons as a great leader of the Tories, and died in 1756. His wife Eliſabeth; daughter of John Berkeley, eſq. of Stoke Gifford, in Gloceſterſhire, baroneſs Bottetourt in her own right. Heads of James, laſt duke of Ormond, who was outlawed for his attachment to the houſe of Stewart, and Mary his ducheſs, ſecond daughter of Henry, firſt duke of Beaufort. Henry, the third duke, and lord Charles Noel Somerſet, when young, in one picture. In the houſekeeper's room is a carved oak chimney-piece, a curious ſpecimen of old furniture, brought from Raglan caſtle: it is divided into three compartments, of which the center repreſents the ſacrifice of Iſaac. In a bed-chamber on the third ſtory, is another chimney-piece, carved in wood, and inlaid with mother-of-pearl; the middle pannel is diſtinguiſhed by an eſcutcheon, in which the firſt and third quartering are the family arms; on each ſide are the figures of Plenty, with a cornucopia, and wheat ears, and Love with two turtle doves.

Wonaſtow houſe is ſeated on the ſummit of a ſwelling eminence, about a mile from Monmouth, near the lower road leading to Abergavenny. In the reign of Eliſabeth it was poſſeſſed by ſir Thomas Herbert, knight, great grandſon of William Herbert, firſt earl of Pembroke of that name, and younger ſon of ſir Charles Herbert, of Troy houſe, by Eliſabeth, daughter of ſir Griffith ap Rhys; he was ſheriff of the county in the firſt of Eliſabeth. His ſon Henry eſpouſed lady Lucy, daughter of William, third earl of Worceſter, and left ſeveral daughters; one of whom, Chriſtian, conveyed Wonaſtow to her huſband George Milborne, eſq. of Milborne Port, in the county of Somerſet; he was juſtice of peace and deputy lieutenant of the county of Monmouth, and appears to have twice ſerved the office of ſheriff, in the 15th of James the firſt, and in the 10th of Charles the firſt.

George Milborne died in 1637, leaving a numerous offſpring of four ſons and five daughters. His fourth deſcendant, George, increaſed his fortune, which was very conſiderable, by eſpouſing Mary, ſole daughter and heireſs of James Gunter,

Gunter *, eſq. of the priory at Abergavenny. Their ſon Charles eſpouſed lady Martha, daughter of Edward, third earl of Oxford and Mortimer; dying in 1775 without iſſue male, the whole united property of the Gunter and Milborne familes, ſituated in the different counties of Monmouth, Middleſex, Hereford, and Brecon, was inherited by his daughter Mary. She eſpouſed Thomas Swinnerton, eſq. of Butterton hall, in the county of Stafford, a deſcendant of ſir Roger de Swinnerton †, of Swinnerton, in the ſame county. Mrs. Swinnerton died in 1795, leaving three daughters and coheirs, Martha and Mary, who were twins, and Eliſabeth.

The houſe, though much diminiſhed from its original ſize, is ſtill a conſiderable edifice of ancient date, and ſeems to have been conſtructed as early as the age of Henry the ſixth; it contains a few portraits, among which is one of ſir Thomas Herbert, dreſſed in the coſtume of Eliſabeth; of George Milborne, who married Mary Gunter; and a well painted picture by Romney, of the late Mrs. Swinnerton, the amiable and accompliſhed heireſs of this venerable manſion.

The chapel, which ſtands at the extremity of a large court, is now uſed as a garden houſe. The manſion is divided into two tenements; one occupied by Mr. Williams, the preſent ſteward, and the other by a tenant who rents the demeſne.

The church, which adjoins to the houſe, is a gothic edifice; in the chancel is a ſumptuous monument, erected to the memory of George Milborne, eſq. and Chriſtian, the heireſs of Wonaſtow. The living is a vicarage, and with thoſe of Abergavenny and Lanellen, in the gift of the family.

The

* The Gunters were remarkable for their good ſenſe, comelineſs, and ſpirit, and were particularly noticed by king William and Mary, on their appearance at court; it is a common expreſſion in the country, that a clever man is a Gunter; and on the contrary, that a heavy man is no Gunter. Charles the firſt and ſecond honoured the Gunters of the priory with ſeveral viſits: one of theſe is ſpecified in the Iter Carolum; July 1, 1645; "To Abergavenny, ſupper, Mr. Gunter's." There is ſtill an apartment in the priory, diſtinguiſhed by the name of the king's bed-chamber; a tradition alſo remains in the family, that the keys of the houſe, cellar, and offices, were delivered to the king's purveyor on theſe occaſions.

† Sir Roger de Swinnerton was created a knight banneret in the holy wars, with permiſſion to bear for his arms a croſs formeé, flory, and a motto, "Avancez et bien archez," alluding to his intrepidity and ſkill in archery, which are ſtill uſed by Mr. Swinnerton. In 11 Edward III. he had ſummons to parliament among the barons of the realm.

Dugdale, vol. 2. p. 112.

The views from the houſe are moſt delightful, and the grounds ſweeping from the ſummit to the foot of the hill, are laid out in the ſtyle of a park, and clothed with hanging groves of ancient oak and elm, which preſent a grand and ornamental appearance from every part of the ſurrounding country.

From Monmouth I made an excurſion to the village of Trelech, remarkable for three druidical ſtones, which ſtand in a field adjoining the high road, at a ſmall diſtance from the church, and from which the place is ſaid to derive its appellation. Some perſons have erroneouſly ſuppoſed that they once ſupported a cromlech*, which is impoſſible, becauſe the diſtance of the middle ſtone from the ſmalleſt is not leſs than fourteen feet, and from the largeſt near twenty. The perpendicular height of the ſmalleſt is nine feet two inches, of the middle ten feet one inch, and of the largeſt eleven feet ten inches; they all incline; the largeſt is fifteen feet long above the ground, and fourteen in circumference at the baſe.

Theſe maſſes are a compoſition of pebbles and cement†, ſo ſoft as to crumble under the touch; the outſide of the ſtone which is expoſed to the air is grey; but when broken the natural colour appears to be red. The ſtrata of the neighbouring rocks conſiſt of this ſubſtance, and fragments of a ſimilar kind are ſpread over Trelech common.

The natives call them Harold's ſtones, and ſuppoſe they allude to his victory over the Britons; but the rudeneſs of their form evidently proves them anterior to the æra in which he flouriſhed; they are probably Britiſh remains of great antiquity, erected either as places of worſhip or as ſepulchral memorials. If we may judge from the number of theſe druidical ſtones in the vicinity, Trelech was once a diſtinguiſhed place. Half a mile from the village, to the left of the road leading to Monmouth, I obſerved, in the midſt of an open common, another of theſe ſtones placed upright, near ſeven feet high, and ſurrounded by a ſmall circular trench. On the oppoſite ſide of the road is a low mound, with ſcattered fragments of ſtones which appear to have been placed in a circular form.

In

* A ſtone placed on the tops of one, two, or more erect ſtones, as a kind of altar, on which ſacrifices were ſuppoſed to be made. † Vulgarly called pudding ſtone.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

TRELEG CHURCH.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY BOMBAY BRANCH

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

DRUIDICAL STONES.

Published March 1.1800, by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

In the garden of Mrs. Rumſey, in the midſt of the village, is a tumulus or barrow, encloſed by a moat, about four hundred and fifty feet in circumference, with traces of extenſive entrenchments. By ſome this mound is ſuppoſed to be an ancient barrow or burial place; by others, the keep of the caſtle, which belonged to the earls of Clare*, and was conveyed in the ſame manner as the caſtle of Uſk, through the families of de Burgh, Mortimer, and York, to the crown. Subſequent to them, I find a branch of the Seymours† eſtabliſhed at Trelech, and afterwards the Rumſeys, an ancient family in Monmouthſhire, who were long ſettled in this place, which is now occupied by the widow of the laſt proprietor.

Near the village is alſo a mineral well, ſtrongly impregnated with iron, of which the author of the Secret Memoirs makes honourable mention: "Treleg wells, which of late years have been much frequented, and have been found very medicinal, and of the nature of Tunbridge waters, flowing from an iron ore mineral, of which, and cinders left by the bloom works, plenty is found in theſe parts‡."

The cinders to which this author alludes, are thoſe remains of bloomeries uſually diſtinguiſhed by the name of Roman cinders, and are thickly ſpread over the adjoining fields. Theſe ſcoria are conſidered by ſome perſons as evident ſigns of a Roman ſettlement; and I am induced to imagine, that the Romans had an eſtabliſhment at Trelech, through which a communication was formed with the Akeman Street, at or near Chepſtow, and thence with the Julia Strata at Caerwent; perhaps the tumulus was the ſite of an exploratory camp.

In the middle of the village, not far from the church, is an ancient ſtone pedeſtal, ſupporting a ſun dial, which is much noticed as a ſpecimen of high antiquity On three ſides are carved repreſentations of the tumulus, the chalybeate well, and the three ſtones. Above the tumulus is inſcribed MAGNA MOLE, and beneath, O QUOT HIC SEPULTI; the figure of the well is accompanied with MAXIMA FONTE, and DOM MAGD PROBIT OSTENDIT. The height of the three ſtones above the ground is marked as being 14, 10, and 8 feet; MAJOR SAXIS

* Dugdale., art. Clare. See alſo p. 128. † MS. in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Jones of Piſtill. ‡ P. 34.

SAXIS is inſcribed over them, and under, HIC FUIT VICTOR HARALDUS. The ſhape of the pedeſtal and the form of the letters prove it to be more modern than is generally ſuppoſed, and I ſuſpect that the inſcription, in honour of Harold's victory over the Britons, was the work of ſome enthuſiaſtic *Saxon* in the fifteenth or ſixteenth century.

T. Tudor, del. *Lee, ſc.*

ELEVATIONS OF THE EAST, SOUTH, AND NORTH SIDES OF THE PEDESTAL.

The church is a handſome gothic building, with an elegant ſpire; and is more ornamented than moſt of the churches in that ſtyle of architecture in Monmouthſhire; the inſide is not inelegant, and the lofty and tapering arches, which ſeparate the nave from the aiſles, have a pleaſing effect.

Trelech is ſituated on the high road from Chepſtow to Monmouth, which is remarkable for a variety of wild and beautiful ſcenery. It leaves Piercefield lodge and grounds on the right, aſcends to the top of an eminence, commanding a ſuperb proſpect, then deſcends through an extenſive tract of foreſt, called Chepſtow Park, winds up to the Devaudon Green, and continues along the ſummit of the Devaudon, leaving the road to Raglan on the left, through a ſucceſſion of heathy commons and rich incloſures. As I paſſed along the brow of this eminence, to the eaſt appeared an undulating ſurface of dreary heaths and extenſive foreſts, among which the Wy winds, unſeen, in a profound abyſs; to the weſt I admired the fertile vallies of Monmouthſhire, ſtretching between the Devaudon and the majeſtic barrier of mountains which ſeparate the county from Glamorganſhire and Brecknockſhire.

Towards the extremity of the Devaudon, the road trends from its northerly direction eaſt and north-eaſt to Trelech, croſſes the common, and leaves at a little diſtance on the left the conſpicuous eminence of Craig y Dorth, where Owen Glendower, in one of his predatory incurſions, defeated the royal troops, and purſued them to the gates of Monmouth.

At the extremity of the common I diſmounted, and walked down the declivity leading to Monmouth; midway I paſſed on my left Leidet houſe, now occupied by the Rev. William Powell, which is remarkable for the beauty of its poſition, on the brow of an eminence, overlooking the groves of Wonaſtow. At this point the mountains in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny aſſume a new poſition; the gentle ſwell of the little Skyrrid is peculiarly elegant, and the craggy ridge of the great Skyrrid appears ſurmounted by the cone of the Sugar Loaf; below Monmouth ſtretches on the banks of the Wy, beautifully embowered in trees, and backed by wooded eminences, above which riſes the bleak and rugged ſummit of the little Doward.

TROY HOUSE.

CHAPTER 34.

White Caſtle.—Scenfreth.—Newcaſtle.—Remarkable Oak.—The Graig.—Caſtle of Groſmont.—John of Kent.

AS White Caſtle, Scenfreth, and Groſmont, were uſually poſſeſſed by the ſame perſon, as they were ingulphed in the immenſe poſſeſſions of the houſe of Lancaſter afterwards annexed to the crown, and as they are now included in one diſtrict, called the hundred of the three caſtles, parts of the duchy of Lancaſter, I ſhall compriſe their hiſtory and deſcription in the ſame chapter.

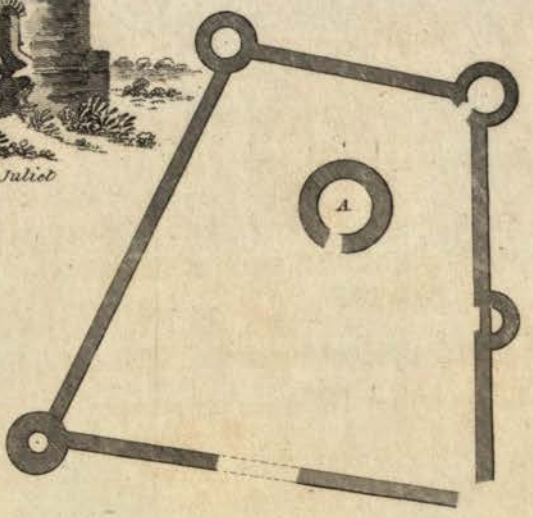
All the northern part of Monmouthſhire, ſtretching from the Wy to Abergavenny, was compriſed under the name of Overwent, and firſt over-run by Brien Fitz Count, earl of Hereford, who came into England with the Conqueror; he obtained by marriage the caſtle of Abergavenny, and moſt probably built or ſtrengthened Groſmont, Scenfreth, and White caſtles. They afterwards belonged to the Cantelupes and the Braoſes, who were lords of Abergavenny; it is particularly ſpecified, that "in the 7 of John, William de Braoſe gave eight hundred marks, three horſes for the great ſaddle, five .... chacuros, twenty-four .... Senſas, and ten greyhounds, to have livery of the caſtles of Groſmont, Skenefrith, and Lanteilo, which were of his inheritance, and which he held of the king, by the ſervice of two knights' fees *."

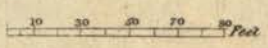
Henry the third afterwards ſeiſed theſe caſtles, and gave them to his favourite Hubert de Burgh, whoſe power almoſt equalled that of the ſovereign himſelf, and whoſe ſufferings exceed thoſe of the moſt perſecuted knight in the annals of romance. Having incurred the diſpleaſure of the king, he was impriſoned

* Dugdale, vol. 1. p. 415.

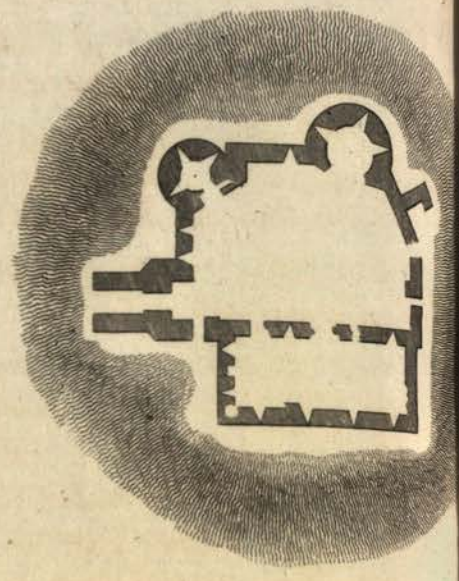
BOMBAY

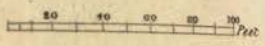
Scenfrith Castle



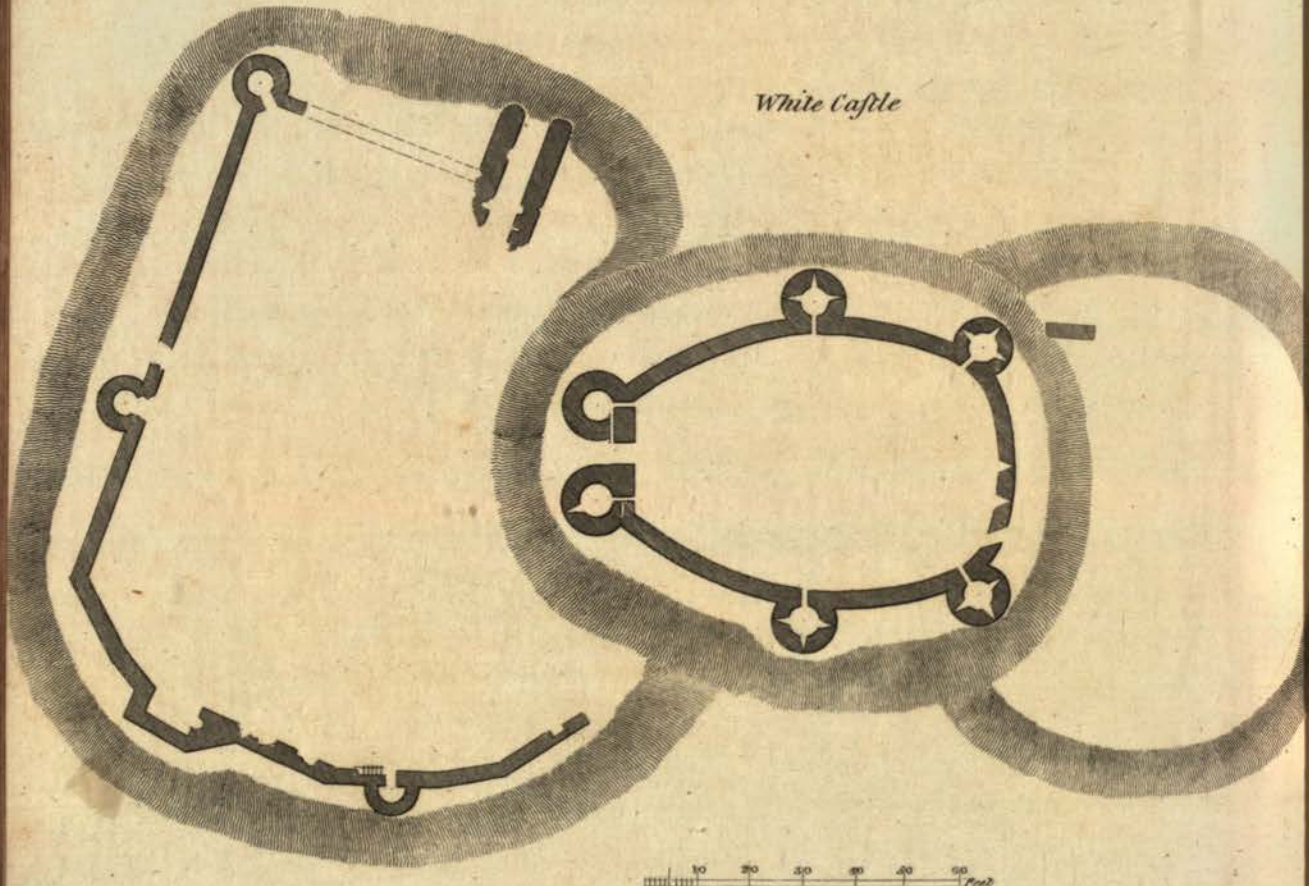


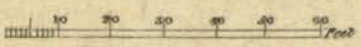
Grosmond Castle





White Castle





Tudor del.

Pub. July 20. 1800. by Cadell & Davies Strand.

impriſoned and almoſt famiſhed to death, and did not recover his liberty until he had reſigned the three caſtles to the crown *.

In 1267, Henry the third granted, with many other poſſeſſions, the three caſtles to his ſon Edmund Crouchback, earl of Lancaſter, and the grant was confirmed by Edward the firſt in the thirteenth year of his reign †. They afterwards came to John of Gaunt, in the ſame manner as the caſtle of Monmouth, formed part of the duchy of Lancaſter, and with Caldecot. caſtle are the only poſſeſſions in Monmouthſhire which ſtill belong to the duchy. Theſe three caſtles were held by the family of Powell, ſettled at Landeilo, under a leaſe from the duchy, afterwards by John Lewis, eſq. who married the heireſs of the Powells, and by his ſon the preſent proprietor of Landeilo; on the expiration of the leaſe they were demiſed to the duke of Beaufort ‡.

The ruins of White Caſtle are ſituated a mile and a half to the north of Landeilo Creſſeney, eight miles to the eaſt of Monmouth, and ſeven to the weſt of Abergavenny. They occupy the ridge of an eminence, ſurrounded with a deep moat, 286 yards in circumference; the walls are of conſiderable thickneſs, and faced with hewn ſtone of a brown colour. The figure is irregular, of an oblong ſhape, reſembling an oval; the works are partly ſtraight and partly curvilinear, and are ſtrengthened with ſix round towers, which ſtand without the walls, and were ſo contrived as to reſiſt a ſiege, even after the loſs of the inner court. The principal entrance is towards the north; it conſiſts of a gateway, which was defended by a portcullis and drawbridge, and flanked by two high and maſſive towers; there is another entrance to the ſouth-weſt, on the oppoſite ſide.

Several veſtiges of apartments, which projected into the area, ſtill exiſt, but not ſufficient to diſcriminate their form. The walls in the whole extent of the outward circumference have no windows, (one only excepted, which is modern) but chinks or oeillets, for the purpoſe of ſhooting arrows at the beſiegers. The length of the area is 145 feet, and the greateſt breadth 106; it is now a place

* Dugdale. Leland, Coll. vol. 2, p. 391. † See chapter 32. ‡ Archives of the duchy.

a place of paſture for horſes and cows, which take ſhelter in the ruined towers; and affords an occaſional cover for hares, one of which I put up as I was paſſing the court.

On the outſide of the foſs, are the remains of a barbican or anti-mural, oppoſite to the principal entrance of the caſtle which it defended, and with which it was connected by a drawbridge. Theſe outworks were very ſtrong; parts of thick walls remain, flanked by a ſquare and ſeveral round towers. The area of the barbican occupies a large ſpace of ground, and is now a corn field. Towards the ſouth, are likewiſe the remains of outworks, but ſo overgrown with brambles and thickets that it is difficult to trace their dimenſions.

The maſſive remains of the caſtle, the height of the towers *, the extent of the outworks, the depth of the foſſes, indicate a place of conſiderable ſtrength and importance, which probably enſured, for ſeveral ages, the dominion of this part of the country. From the ſtyle of the architecture, it appears to have been conſtructed either before the conqueſt, or at the lateſt in the early times of the Norman æra. The records of hiſtory give ſanction to this opinion.

It is called in ancient documents Whyt Caſtle, Caſtell Blaunch, or Blanch, and Album Caſtrum; and is ſaid to derive its name from ſir Gwyn ap Gwaithvoed †, its poſſeſſor at the time of the Norman invaſion. Hence it was called Caſtell *Gwyn*, and as *Gwyn* in the Welſh tongue ſignifies *White*, obtained the name of White Caſtle. It is alſo mentioned under the name of Caſtell Gwyn, as belonging to William de Braoſe, lord of Abergavenny, who flouriſhed in the reign of Henry the ſecond; on his baniſhment it was ſeiſed by the Welſh, recovered by his ſon Reginald, confirmed to his grandſon William de Braoſe, afterwards appropriated by Henry the third, and united to the duchy of Lancaſter.

In

* The height of the moſt perfect tower is not leſs than 60 feet; the depth of the moat is from 14 to 18 feet, and the breadth from 40 to 70.

† Gwaithvoed, prince of Cardigan in right of his mother, died in 1057. He left eight ſons, of whom the eldeſt Cadivor vaur was anceſtor of the Morgans, his ſixth ſon Bach, was lord of Scenfreth, and his ſeventh was this ſir Gwyn ap Gwaithvoed; his arms were, per pale gules and azure, a lion rampant, or, ſupporting a tree proper. From a MS. in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Jones of Piſtill.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

R.H. del.

W.B. direx.

WHITE CASTLE.

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In the time of Henry the eighth it was not dilapidated; Leland ſays, "this caſtle ſtandeth on a hill, and is drye moted; it is made almoſt of great ſlate ſtone, and is the greateſt of the three." In the days of Eliſabeth, White Caſtle was a place of great renown and magnificence, and is deſcribed by Churchyard as *

"A ſtatelie ſeate, a loftie princely place."

But it probably went rapidly to decay, for in the tenth of James the firſt, it is preſented by the jury as "ruinous and in decay time out of mind †."

The caſtle of Scenfreth is ſituated about five miles to the eaſt of White Caſtle, and ſeven to the north of Monmouth; a fortreſs ſeldom viſited by travellers, as the acceſs to it is difficult both for carriages and horſes. The carriage road goes through Rockfield, where it quits the turnpike leading by Landeilo Creſſeney to Abergavenny, continues towards Groſmont as far as the Boot public houſe, about ſeven miles from Monmouth, and then enters a road ſcarcely paſſable, although it is part of the turnpike to Roſs. The horſeway leaves the carriage road about four miles from Monmouth, and after traverſing St. Maughan's common, proceeds through a narrow ſteep and ſtony lane, overgrown with thickets, and pitched with large ſtones placed edgeways in the boggy ſoil; theſe ſtones being broken or diſplaced, a ſucceſſion of uneven ſteps is formed, and horſes not accuſtomed to ſuch rugged and miry ways, are continually apt to ſtumble and flounder.

By the ſide of this road a pleaſant walk runs through the fields, on the ſlope overlooking the vale of the Monnow. In the vicinity of theſe lanes, ſuch footways are common in every part of Monmouthſhire, which thoſe who are fond of walking will traverſe with delight.

From Perthîr to Scenfreth, the frontiers of Monmouthſhire are ſeparated from the

* "Three caſtles fayre, are in a goodly ground,
"Groſmont is one, on hill it builded was;
"Skenfreth the next, in valley it is found,
"The ſoyle about, for pleaſure there doth paſſe;
"Whit Caſtle is the third of worthie fame,
"The country there doth bear Whyt Caſtle's name,
"A ſtately ſeate, a loftie princely place,
"Whoſe beautie gives the ſimple ſoyle ſome grace."
Worthines of Wales, p. 20.

† Inquiſitio Com. Mon. de albo Caſtro, 2da. pars. Archives of the duchy of Lancaſter.

the county of Hereford by the Monnow, which flows in a lively and tranſparent ſtream, through a narrow vale of rich paſture ſprinkled with neat hamlets, at the foot of ſucceſſive eminences thickly mantled with wood.

Scenfreth, which is only remarkable for its caſtle, is a miſerable village, containing a church, a few cottages, and two public houſes. The caſtle is placed in a recluſe ſpot, ſurrounded by hills, on the margin of the limpid and murmuring Monnow; though inconſiderable in ſize, having no traces of outworks, and calculated only to contain a ſmall garriſon for the command of the river, or the defence of an important defile, it is undoubtedly of high antiquity, which ſufficiently appears from the ſimplicity of its form. The walls incloſed an area in the ſhape of a trapezium, now a kitchen garden; its length is 160 feet, its greateſt breadth 170, and 84 in the narroweſt part. The walls are ſtrong, and flanked with five circular towers, one at each angle, and one in the middle of the ſide next the village, which had no communication with the area but from the battlements.

Towards the center of the area is a Juliet *, or high round tower, which was undoubtedly the keep or citadel; it is ſituated on a ſmall riſe, or artificial mound, but without any appearance of a moat or draw-bridge. The entrance, which was ſeveral feet from the ground, is much broken; the arches of the windows that remain are plainly rounded.

The principal entrance of the caſtle was probably on the northern ſide, on a raiſed mound of earth ſtill viſible, but the walls are fallen down, and no traces of the porch can be perceived. There was probably a draw-bridge, and two round towers. The walls were originally provided with no other apertures than ſmall chinks.

On the ſide of the village, the view of the ruins is obſtructed by houſes, ſheds, and ricks; but on the bridge of the Monnow they appear to ſome advantage, from the elevation of the Juliet, which towers above the dilapidated walls; the bridge itſelf is a pleaſing object; it is of ſtone, and conſiſts of two gothic arches.

Bach, ſixth ſon of Cadivor ap Gwaithvoed, or Cadivor Vaur, is mentioned by Enderbie

* See the engraving on the plan.

R.H. del.t

W.B. direx.t

BRIDGE AND CASTLE OF SCENFRITH.

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Enderbie as lord of Scenfreth, which was wreſted from him by one of the Norman chieftains. Although I have not been able to diſcover any other account of this place before the reign of king John, yet I have little heſitation in deciding, from the ſtyle of the architecture, that it is the oldeſt caſtle in Monmouthſhire, and was anterior to the conqueſt; but as it was inferior in ſtrength and conſequence to Monmouth, Groſmont, and White caſtles, its name does not ſo often occur, and its hiſtory is confounded with that of thoſe fortreſſes. Scenfreth is ſeldom mentioned ſingly, but follows the fortune of the two other Caſtles, and is always conveyed with them to the different proprietors, who obtained them either by marriage or grant from the crown: it was likewiſe ſeiſed by Henry the third, granted to his ſon Edmund earl of Lancaſter, paſſed to John of Gaunt, and in the reign of Henry the fifth, with them, became parcel of the duchy of Lancaſter, to which it now belongs.

In the days of Henry the eighth, Leland thus deſcribes it: "The caſtle of Scenfrith ſtandeth five miles above Monmouth towne, on Mone river, on the very ripe of it, ſecundum decurſum fluvii; and in times paſt, by all likelyhood, the river did goe about the caſtle dike. Much of the utterwarde of this caſtle yet ſtandeth: the ſite of it ſomewhat lowe. There is a ſtone bridge over Mone a little above the caſtle. Hubert de Burgh earl of Kent was lord of Skenfrith, and the noble Edmund earl of Kent had it*."

In the reign of James the firſt it was in a ſtate of dilapidation, and preſented by the jury as "ruinous and decayed time out of the memory of man."

In the north aiſle of the church, which is a gothic building extremely picturesque, is a curious monument of ſir John Morgan and Anne his wife. The figures are carved on a flat ſtone, round the edge of which is inſcribed, in gothic characters, "In hoc tumulo condita ſunt corpora Johannis Morgan, armigeri, qui obiit 2 die Septembris, anno 1557: et Annæ uxoris ejus, quæ obiit 4 die Januar. 1564." On each ſide of this tomb are baſſo relievo figures, and arms on the front and back.

A croſs road leads from Scenfreth to Groſmont, not far from the banks of the Monnow, and the frontiers of Herefordſhire. In my firſt tour I traverſed this route.

* Leland, Itin. vol. 4. p. 176.

route on horſeback; the road is rugged, but extremely cool and pleaſant in ſummer, for it paſſes through narrow lanes overhung with wood, and croſſes numerous lively brooks, which fall into the Monnow.

The road from Monmouth to Groſmont goes through Rockfield, leaves the road to Scenfreth on the right, and paſſes through Newcaſtle, where I ſtopped to examine the remains of a caſtle, from which the place derived its appellation. Theſe remains are inconſiderable, conſiſting only of a tumulus or barrow, environed by a moat 300 feet in circumference, with veſtiges of an exterior entrenchment. Of the origin or demolition of this caſtle, I can diſcover no traces in hiſtory.

The mount or barrow is ſuppoſed by the common people to be the haunt of ſpirits, and many ſtories of their apparition are circulated in the place. But an aged oak, which ſtands near the public houſe on the left of the road, is ſtill more the tale of the village, and has given riſe to as many legends in the vicinity, as Hearne's oak in Windſor foreſt, which Shakſpeare introduces as the ſcene of a fairy dance in the Merry Wives of Windſor; I figured to myſelf queen Mab ſinging to her nightly companions:

" And twenty glow-worms ſhall our lanterns be,
" To guide our meaſure round about the tree."

According to the opinion of the vulgar, this tree is protected by inviſible ſpirits, and no one has ever ventured to lop or injure it without feeling the effects of their vengeance. In confirmation of theſe aſſertions, one of the natives related to me ſeveral inſtances of *profane* perſons who ſuffered for their incredulity; one fell from the tree as he was lopping a branch, and broke his arm; another fractured his leg, and a third periſhed ſhortly after his ſacrilegious enterpriſe by an untimely death. This tree is not ſo much remarkable for its girth, although it meaſures twenty-ſeven feet, as for its pendent boughs and twiſted branches, which have a fantaſtic appearance; it is now hollow, and haſtening to decay, and is much diminiſhed from its original ſize; one of the largeſt branches, broken off by a violent ſtorm of wind, yielded fifteen car-loads of fire-wood. An engraving of this ſingular tree, from a ſketch taken by Mr. Tudor in 1780, will convey ſome idea of its former ſize and appearance.

Not

R. H. del.t W. B. direx.

ENTRANCE TO GROSMONT CASTLE.

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R. H. del.t W. B. direx.

VILLAGE & CASTLE OF SCENFRITH.

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ROYAL AVIAT

Not only the barrow has its ſpirits, and the oak its hamadryad, but the water in the vicinity is equally ſacred; at the diſtance of half a mile from the village, and in the midſt of a pleaſant wood, a ſpring guſhes from the ſide of a hill, and after ſupplying a well, falls into a lively brook. This well is alſo ſuppoſed to poſſeſs a healing quality, which is communicated by an attendant ſpirit. The guide who conducted me to the ſpot, aſſured me, that it was an infallible cure for many diſorders, particularly the rheumatiſm; he added, that he was much ſubject to that complaint in the head, of which he had been repeatedly relieved by bathing in the well, or by expoſing the part affected for a conſiderable time to the current of the ſpring. In ſummer this well is much frequented by invalids, and has performed occaſional cures. The water ſeemed to contain no mineral particles; it is extremely cold, from which, as well as from the action of the ſtream, its efficacy is probably derived.

Quitting Newcaſtle, I purſued my journey, left the Boot public houſe and the road to Scenfreth on the right, paſſed the turnpike called Traveller's Seat, and at a ſmith's ſhop, about nine miles from Monmouth, quitted my chaiſe, and rode up the ſide of the Graig along the devious track which croſſes the mountain to Groſmont.

The Graig, which is the only conſpicuous hill in the north-eaſtern part of Monmouthſhire, riſes abruptly from the lowlands, is of an undulating ſhape, and its ſmooth and bare outline appears unintereſting to thoſe who have been accuſtomed to the broken and contraſted forms of the mountains in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny.

I reached to the ſummit near a ſmall mound, called the Tump, where the three pariſhes of Landeilo Creſſeney, Scenfreth, and Groſmont unite. The higheſt part of this mountain is a ſheep walk, and not unfrequently the ſcene of hunting parties, although the ſteepneſs of the declivities would aſtound many a *Saxon* ſportſman.

The day was uncommonly calm and ſerene, the ſun ſhone in full ſplendour, and every object was eaſily diſcriminated. The view from the ſummit is perhaps not inferior to any in Monmouthſhire; from its inſulated ſituation, height above the

the ſurrounding eminences, due diſtance from the mountainous region on the frontiers of Wales, and poſition at the north-eaſtern extremity of Monmouthſhire, it commands a boundleſs proſpect in every direction. Quitting its ſummit, I gently rode down the graſſy ſides of the mountain, through commons and thickets; paſſed the Graig houſe, ſituated on the declivity, in a wild and ſequeſtered ſpot, which was inhabited by Dr. Davies, the father of the vicar of St. Mary's, and at length reached Groſmont.

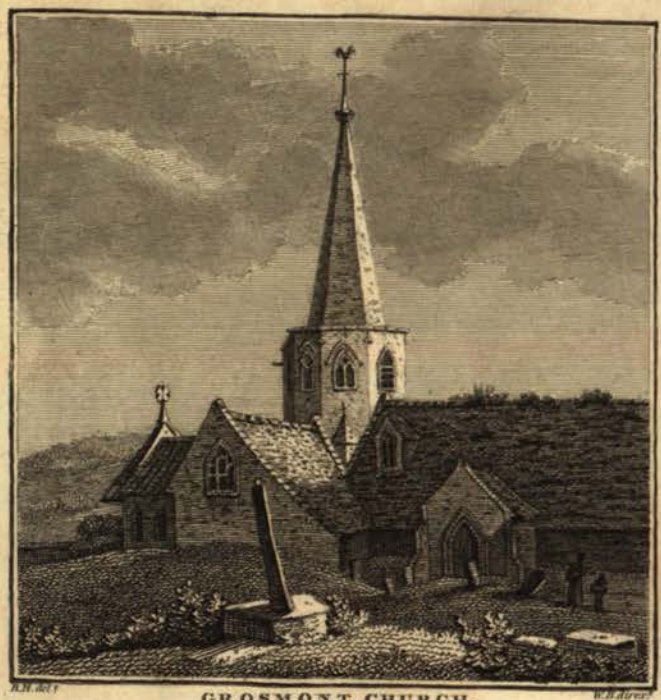
Groſmont, Groſſmount, Griſemond, or Griſemount Caſtle, is ſituated to the ſouth-eaſt of the village on an eminence near the Monnow; it is ſurrounded with a dry moat, and was ſtrengthened with outworks to the ſouth-eaſt, of which ſome of the remains are ſtill viſible, that formed the barbican; veſtiges of entrenchments alſo appear to the ſouth.

The preſent ruins, ſtanding on the ridge of the moat, encloſe an area of not more than 110 feet in length and 70 in breadth. The principal entrance to the ſouth is formed by a pointed arch; the doorways leading into the towers, and all the windows, whoſe forms can be traced, are of the ſame ſtyle; and the whole appearance of the remains, fully proves that it was conſtructed at an æra much poſterior to Scenfreth and White Caſtle. On the right of the entrance I noticed an oblong ſpacious apartment, with three windows on each ſide and two at each end, which meaſures 80 feet by 27, and was probably the great baronial hall. The caſtle was once much larger than at preſent; veſtiges of dilapidated apartments may be traced in the area; ſeveral remains of walls and foundations appear to the north, particularly the ruins of an apartment with a gothic chimney, which is high, tapering, and ſurmounted with a coronet.

The hiſtory of Groſmont Caſtle is compriſed under that of Scenfreth and White Caſtle; it belonged to the families of Braoſe and Cantilupe, was conveyed by Henry the third to Hubert de Burgh, again ſeiſed by the king, and afterwards annexed to the duchy of Lancaſter.

During the reign of Henry the third it was diſtinguiſhed by two events. Being inveſted by Lewellin prince of Wales, "the king came," ſays Lambarde, "with a great army to raiſe the ſiege, whereof as ſone

"as



GROSMONT CHURCH.

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SCENFRITH CHURCH.

Published March 1.1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand.

"as the Welſhmen had underſtandinge, they ſaved their lives by their "legges *." In a ſubſequent expedition however the royal troops ſeem to have had leſs underſtanding than the Welſh. The king marching againſt Richard Marſhal, earl of Pembroke, who had thrown himſelf on the protection of Lewellin, his proviſions were cut off, and being unable to proſecute his intended enterpriſe, he retreated to Groſmont, and encamped his army in the vicinity of the caſtle. During the night a large party of the enemy's horſe ſurpriſed the king's troops aſleep in the trenches, and carried away five hundred horſes, with many waggons, baggage, proviſions, and much treaſure †.

Groſmont Caſtle ſeems to have been the favourite reſidence of the earls of Lancaſter, particularly of Henry, grandſon of Edmund Crouchback, who was ſurnamed Griſmont, from the place of his birth. He probably much enlarged and beautified the ſtructure, as the ſtile of the architecture accords with the æra in which he flouriſhed.

Leland thus deſcribes it, "The caſtle of Groſſemount ſtandeth a three miles above Skenfrith, on the right hand of the Mone, ſecundum decurſum fluvii, half a mile from the ripe. It ſtandeth ſtrongly on a rocke of hill drye ditched, and a village of the ſame name by it. Moſt part of the caſtle walls yet ſtand." In the reign of James I. it was preſented by the jury as in a ſtate of dilapidation ‡.

The lawn on the north and eaſt ſide of the ruins is ſtill called the Caſtle Green: the eaſtern ſide impends over the precipitous banks of the Monnow, which are tufted with a rich grove of wide ſpreading oaks; the river below is ſingularly beautiful; it gleams through the foliage, and ſuddenly turning, bends into the form of a horſe-ſhoe, and almoſt encircles a field of luxuriant paſture. The environs are delightful; the vale ſwells into gentle eminences clothed with trees; on one ſide the view is bounded by the Graig, and the other by the Garway, enriched with the woods and plantations of Kentchurch park.

The church of Groſmont, of which an engraving is annexed, is a large and handſome

* Topographical Dictionary, p. 133.

† Dugdale, vol. 1. p. 604.

‡ Leland, Itin. vol. 4. p. 176. Archives of the duchy of Lancaſter.

handſome gothic ſtructure, with an octagon tower, on which riſes a hexagon ſpire; the tower and body are white-waſhed, and the ſpire is of brown ſtone uncoloured. The church is built in the form of a cathedral, like a Roman croſs, and conſiſts of a nave, two aiſles, a tranſept, and a chancel.

Groſmont is now a ſmall and neat village; but was once a place of conſiderable importance, and is ſtill governed by a mayor and burgeſſes. The natives boaſt of its former extent, point out ſpots at ſome diſtance which formed ſtreets of the town, and allude to a tradition, that the market was once held on the ſide of the Graig. But a more deciſive proof of its former importance is derived from the numerous cauſeways, which diverge from it in ſeveral directions, and which in any other county I ſhould have conceived to be remains of Roman roads. Two of theſe cauſeways may be traced to the diſtance of a mile, one leading towards the Graig and the Abergavenny road, and the other, towards the extremity of the village, in the direction of Scenfreth and Monmouth, which is ſuppoſed by the natives to have been a ſtreet of the town. Theſe roads are raiſed to the height of ſeveral feet, and though much dilapidated, are ſtill in many places from nine to twelve feet broad; the ſtones are laid one on the other; ſeveral which I meaſured were not leſs than nine feet in length, and of proportionate breadth and thickneſs. Within the memory of the inhabitants, roads of a ſimilar conſtruction led in other directions, but have been demoliſhed for the ſake of the materials.

As Newcaſtle teems with tales of ſprites and elves, ſo Groſmont rings with the atchievements of John of Kent, whoſe exploits almoſt eclipſe the adventures of baron Munkhauſen. Old and young women, men and boys, unite in relating with extreme volubility, and without the ſmalleſt diſagreement, a ſeries of extraordinary tales concerning this wonderful perſonage. Like Dr. Fauſtus, he is ſaid to have made a compact with the devil; but more ſucceſsful than the doctor, he evaded the conditions of his covenant, and outwitted the prince of darkneſs, both in his life and at his death.

Among the early ſpecimens of his magical ſkill, while a farmer's boy in the vicinity, he confined a number of crows, which he was ordered to keep from the

corn,

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GROSMONT CASTLE.

Published March 2. 1800. by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

corn, in an old barn without a roof, that he might viſit Groſmont fair. "And ſure enough," ſaid the old woman, who told me the anecdote, "they were there; for they made a terrible clatter, and would not fly away till Jack himſelf came and releaſed them."

Kentchurch Houſe, the neighbouring ſeat of the Scudamore family, by whom he was hired as a ſervant, became afterwards the ſcene of his marvellous exploits, which it would be tedious to recount. But the feat of all others, which moſt endears his memory to the inhabitants of Groſmont, was the conſtruction of the bridge over the Monnow, leading to Kentchurch; it is ſtill called John of Kent's bridge, and is ſaid to have been built in one night by one of his familiar ſpirits. "But it could not be the devil, ſir," added the relater of the tale, "for he would never have done ſo good an action."

An old tombſtone in the church yard, cloſe to the eaſt wall of the chancel, is ſaid to cover his body, and the legend reports, that he was interred under the wall to evade the condition of his compact; which ſtipulated, that if buried either within the church, or out of the church, he ſhould become the property of Satan. At the time of both my viſits to Groſmont, this tomb was covered with a quantity of rubbiſh, which prevented me from inſpecting it; but I was informed by the clerk, and by many other perſons, that it contained no inſcription.

A cellar at Kentchurch houſe is ſtill ſhewn as the ſtable where he kept horſes, on which he traverſed the air with the ſpeed of Lapland witches; and his portrait on wood, painted in oil, of which an engraving is annexed, is likewiſe there preſerved.

The family of Kentchurch, to whom I applied for the true character and actions of this reputed ſorcerer, could afford no ſpecific or poſitive information. According to tradition, he was a monk, educated at one of the univerſities, and remarkable for his learning; in an age of ignorance, his acquirements excited the aſtoniſhment of his contemporaries, and like friar Bacon he was eſteemed by the vulgar a necromancer. A Latin tranſlation of the Bible, on

vellum, which was either made or copied by him, was preſerved in the family, but has been long miſlaid or deſtroyed.

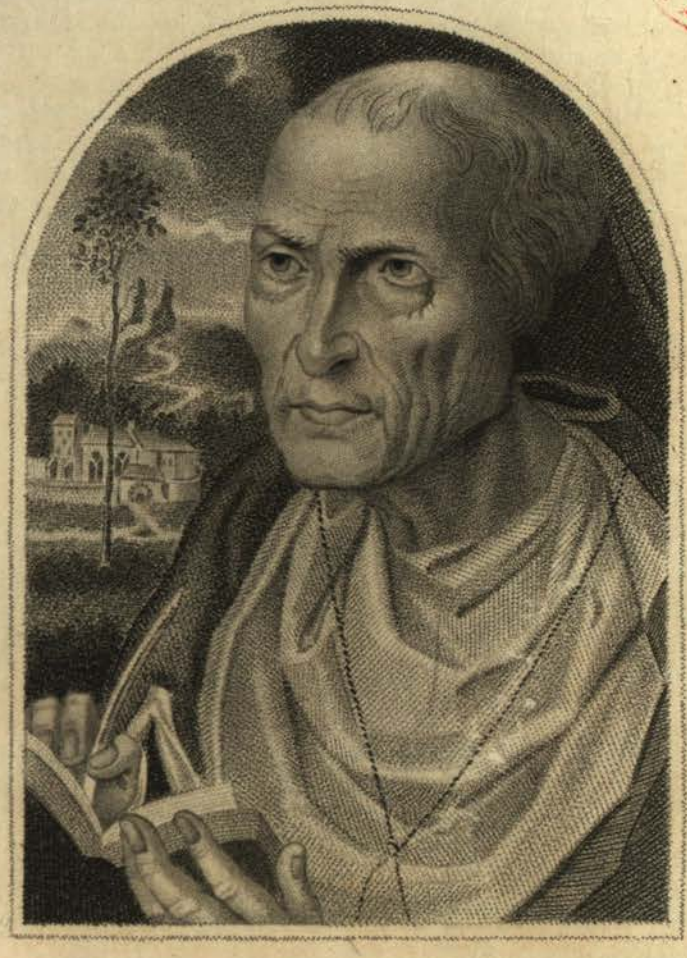
Various opinions have been entertained concerning this myſterious perſonage. According to ſome he was the John of Kent, Gwent, or Went, a Franciſcan, thus mentioned by Leland: "He was bred in Wales, and ſo ardently followed the moſt celebrated ſchools of the Franciſcans at Oxford, and made ſuch improvements in profound learning, that he was the wonder of all his religious brethren." According to the antiquities of the Engliſh Franciſcans, he was born at Chepſtow, became profeſſor and doctor of divinity, and on account of his extraordinary virtue was choſen miniſter provincial of the order in England. He wrote many learned and pious works, particularly Commentaries on the Maſter of the Sentences, Sermons to the People, and Diſputed Queſtions. He died in 1348; and the catalogue of the provincial miniſters ſays of him, "Brother John Went, doctor of Oxford, who wrought miracles in his life time, lies at Hereford." Baker, in his Chronicle, mentions another John of Kent among the men of learning in the reign of Henry the third *.

According to others he was a bard of Owen Glendower, and became domeſticated in the family on the defeat of his chieftain, whoſe daughter married a Scudamore.

A tradition however ſtill prevails, that an old wizard, diſguiſed in a ſhepherd's habit, once roamed about in the neighbourhood of Groſmont, frequented Kentchurch Houſe, and was buried privately under the ſtone in the church yard, below the eaſt window of the chancel, which is called John of Kent's tombſtone. A reſpectable perſon, long reſident in the village of Kentchurch, from whom I derived this information, conjectures that this wizard was Owen Glendower himſelf, who, when proſcribed, wandered about in a ſhepherd's habit, and took refuge with one of his daughters. It is likewiſe remarkable, that the place of Owen Glendower's death, or ſepulture, has never been poſitively aſcertained; ſome ſuppoſe, though without ſufficient authority, that he was interred at

* Leland, Scrip. Brit. p. 376. Antiq. of the E. Franciſc. p. 159. Baker's Chronicle, p. 132.

OF THE
BOMBAY
BRANCH
OF THE



JOHN of KENT

From an Original Picture in the Posession of Jn° Scudamore Esq°

Pub May 1 1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand

at Mornington in Herefordſhire, the ſeat of one of his ſons in law, others, with ſtill leſs probability, that he was buried in the cathedral of Bangor *.

* A curious paſſage from the Memoirs of Owen Glendower is here ſubmitted to the reader, p. 73. "A. D. 1415, death put a period to Owen's life and miſery upon the eve of St. Matthew. Some ſay he died at his daughter Scudamore's, others at his daughter Mornington's houſe. They had both harboured him in his forlorn condition. They ſay that he was fain to go up and down diſguiſed in a ſhepherd's habit, to his daughters' and other friends' houſes. Where Owen was buried cannot now be aſcertained. But my countrymen, whether from tradition or conjecture, I know not, ſuppoſe a grave under the great window in the ſouth iſle wall of Bangor cathedral, to be his place of interment. This mural monument is ſingular and much noticed; it lies within the wall, having a hollow arch over it, and a ſhort buttreſs to ſupport it. The ſtone, which is of the grit kind, has no inſcription on it, or any adornment beſides a large ill formed croſs." "Humphrey, a late biſhop of Bangor, and a great antiquary, did not credit this report, but firmly believed, from a paſſage in Giraldus' Itinerary, that it was the mauſoleum of Owen Gwynedd, prince of North Wales. A. D. 1138."

REMARKABLE OAK AT NEWCASTLE

CHAPTER 35.

Excurſion down the Wy.—Characteriſtic Features of the River.—Navigation from Roſs to Monmouth.—Goodrich Caſtle.—Courtfield.—Welſh Bicknor Church.—Sepulchral Effigies of the ſuppoſed Counteſs of Saliſbury.—Proprietors of Welſh Bicknor.—Family of Vaughan.—Coldwell Rocks.—New Weir.—Monmouth.

TO avoid digreſſions, I have hitherto ſolely confined my obſervations to Monmouthſhire; yet as the voyage down the Wy, from Roſs to Chepſtow, is an intereſting object, I ſhall in this ſingle inſtance deviate from my original plan, and give a general account of the whole navigation; although that part of the river which flows from Roſs to Monmouth is principally included in the counties of Gloceſter and Hereford. In company with Mr. Hoare, I went in a poſt chaiſe to Roſs; the road runs near the right bank of the Wy, leaves Dixon church to the eaſt, and after paſſing the frontiers, quits the river, and rejoins it beyond Goodrich, at a little diſtance from Roſs, where we arrived in the evening, and on the following morning commenced our excurſion down the Wy.

The characteriſtics of the Wy are its ſerpentine courſe, from which it is ſuppoſed to derive its name *; the uniform breadth of the channel; and the ſcenery of its banks.

The

* I am favoured by Mr. Owen with the following etymology: The Wy is called Gwy by the Welſh, when the name ſtands alone, but in compoſition the mutable G is dropped, and it then becomes *wy*. The import of *Gwy* abſtractedly is, a flowing or ſtreaming, a circulating or going about, and thence it ſignifies water. This term is much uſed in the compoſition of words, particularly the names of rivers and of water-fowl.

Example:

Conwy, (con-gwy) the chief ſtream.
Tawy, the ſpreading ſtream.
Elwy, the ſonorous ſtream.
Llugwy, the duſky ſtream.
Mynwy, or the Monnow.
Onwy, the aſh-water.
Gwyach, a ſnipe.
Gwydd, a gooſe.

The ſerpentine courſe is ſo conſiderable, that the diſtance from Roſs to Chepſtow, which in a direct line is not more than ſixteen miles and four furlongs, is thirty-ſeven miles and ſeven furlongs by water *. The effects of theſe numerous windings are various and ſtriking; the ſame objects preſent themſelves, are loſt and recovered with different accompaniments, and in different points of view: thus the ruins of a caſtle, hamlets emboſomed in trees, the ſpire of a church burſting from the wood, forges impending over the water, and broken maſſes of rock fringed with herbage, ſometimes are ſeen on one ſide, ſometimes on the other, and form the fore ground or back ground of a landſcape. Thus alſo the river itſelf here ſtretches in a continuous line, there waves in a curve, between gentle ſlopes and fertile meadows, or is ſuddenly concealed in a deep abyſs, under the gloom of impending woods.

Another characteriſtic of the Wy, is the almoſt uniform breadth of the channel, which ſeems to have been ſcooped by the hand of nature, in the midſt of ſurrounding hills. Hence in the whole courſe of this navigation, except in the vicinity of Roſs and till it receives the tide, the ſtream, unlike other mountain torrents, is not ſcattered over a wide and ſtony bed, but rolls in one compact and accumulated body. This uniformity of breadth is however broken by the perpetual ſinuoſity of the river, and enlivened by the diverſified ſcenery of the banks, which forms the third characteriſtic of the Wy.

The banks for the moſt part riſe abruptly from the edge of the water, and are clothed with foreſts, or broken into cliffs. In ſome places they approach ſo near, that the river occupies the whole intermediate ſpace, and nothing is

* By Water.

	M.	F.	P.
From Roſs to Goodrich caſtle	4	4	0
To Coldwell	7	0	0
To New Weir	4	2	0
To Monmouth	5	1	0
From Roſs to Monmouth	20	7	0
To Tintern	10	4	0
To Chepſtow	6	4	60
From Roſs to Chepſtow	37	7	00

By Land.

	M.	F.	P.
From Roſs by the turnpike to Monmouth	10	0	0
In a ſtraight line, or as the crow flies	9	0	10
From Roſs to Chepſtow by the turnpike	24	0	0
By Coleford	21	0	0
In a ſtraight line	16	4	0

The baſe or ſuppoſed tunnel of the hill, between Coldwell and the New Weir, is 600 yards, the circuit of the river 4 miles 2 furlongs.

Theſe meaſures were taken by Mr. Taylor, author of the Surveys of the Counties of Hereford and Glocester, and are given in Heath's Excurſion down the Wy, p. 7.

is ſeen but wood, rocks, and water; in others, they alternately recede, and the eye catches an occaſional glimpſe of hamlets, ruins, and detached buildings, partly ſeated on the margin of the ſtream, and partly ſcattered on the riſing grounds. The general character of the ſcenery, however, is wildneſs and ſolitude; and if we except the populous diſtrict of Monmouth, no river perhaps flows for ſo long a courſe through a well cultivated country, the banks of which exhibit ſo few habitations.

We embarked at ſeven in the morning in a convenient veſſel, capable of containing eight perſons beſides the boatmen, and provided with an awning, which as the weather was unclouded and ſultry, we found a good defence againſt the rays of an Auguſt ſun. We paſſed under the ſtone bridge, leaving on our right the ruins of Wilton Caſtle, and as the water was low, ſaw but few objects worthy of attention, except the ſpire of Roſs church towering above the trees, and Penyard hill covered with wood *.

At a ſmall farm called Weir End, the river turns abruptly, and flows under the precipitous ſides of Pencraig hill mantled with trees to the margin of the river. From this place commences that intereſting combination of ſcenery, which diſtinguiſhes the banks of the Wy. We ſoon afterwards deſcried the embattled turrets of Goodrich Caſtle; the firſt view of theſe ruins, which preſent themſelves at a ſudden bend of the river, crowning the ſummit of an eminence clothed with wood, is extremely grand and intereſting; they vaniſh and reappear at different intervals, and as we paſſed under them aſſumed a leſs majeſtic, but a more pictureſque aſpect.

Having breakfaſted at a ferry-houſe, at the foot of the hill on which the caſtle is ſituated, we aſcended the ſteep ſides of the acclivity, through rich groves of oak and elm, to the ruins, which on our approach reaſſumed their former grandeur. I ſhall not attempt to deſcribe theſe remains, or to detail their hiſtory; but refer the reader to an accurate deſcription, illuſtrated with a ground plot, and ſeveral intereſting views, publiſhed by Bonnor. I ſhall only obſerve, that among all

* I have ſimply deſcribed this part of the river as it appeared to me; but at particular times, when the river is high, the ſtream is more rapid, and the cultivated meads in the vicinity, backed by riſing hills, appear to advantage.

all the accounts of the caſtle given to the public, William Herbert, earl of Pembroke is not mentioned as a proprietor, although he obtained from Edward the fourth, among many other poſſeſſions, the caſtle and manor of Goodrich, with the lordſhip and manor of Urchenfield *.

Deſcending from the caſtle, we paſſed through ſome pleaſant meadows to a farm houſe, once the ſite of a priory, and traced, in the gothic windows and part of the chapel, the remains of the ancient ſtructure.

Re-embarking, we continued our courſe, and were gently carried down the ſtream by the current. The ſcenery is mild and placid, the river is bounded on each ſide by wooded acclivities, above which to the left towers the ſpire of Ruerdean church peeping from the midſt of the foreſt, and near Lidbrook the ſlopes of the hills are thickly ſprinkled with cottages, delightfully ſituated in the midſt of ſurrounding copſes. From Lidbrook large quantities of coal are ſent to Roſs and Hereford; and we paſſed ſeveral barges towed by ten or eleven men, which by great exertions are drawn to Hereford in two days. Hitherto the county of Hereford uniformly occupied both ſides of the river, but a little beyond Lidbrook the diſtrict of Monmouthſhire, called the pariſh of Welſh Bicknor, extends along the right bank. The boatmen pointed out the north-eaſtern boundary, which is marked by a hedge, ſeparating a common from a wood, at the extremity of Coppet hill; the common is in Herefordſhire, the wood in Monmouthſhire.

Here I diſembarked, and walked to Courtfield, a ſeat belonging to the family of Vaughan, which is not unnoticed in the pages of hiſtory. According to tradition it is the place where Henry the fifth was nurſed, under the care of the counteſs of Saliſbury, from which circumſtance the original name of Greyfield is ſaid to have been changed into Courtfield †. The houſe is of a much more modern date than the period of Henry the fifth, and does not contain any thing which recals the memory of thoſe times. The tattered remains of a rich bed, called the bed of Henry the fifth, were long ſhewn at this place, and his old cradle was preſerved at the houſe of the Rev. Mr. Ball, rector of Newland, in the vicinity,

* Dugdale's Baronage, article Herbert.

† This is probably an erroneous tradition; for *Court* was a common name for a manor houſe, where the lord of the manor held his court.

nity, which deſcended to him from his anceſtor, one of the rockers; it is now in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Whitehead, of French Hay, near Briſtol, and from the engraving given by Bonnor, ſeems to be a curious piece of antiquity.

Welſh Bicknor church, about half a mile from Courtfield, contains a curious ſepulchral effigies, without an inſcription or coat of arms, which has much exerciſed the ingenuity of antiquaries; it is a recumbent figure of a woman in ſtone, placed on the floor, and according to tradition repreſents the counteſs of Saliſbury, who reſided at Courtfield, and was the reputed nurſe of Henry the fifth. She is dreſſed in a looſe robe; and at her head were two figures, one of which is eraſed; but the other repreſents an angel *.

The perſon here interred was probably Margaret, daughter and heir of Thomas lord Monthermer; ſhe eſpouſed ſir John de Montacute, ſecond ſon of William firſt earl of Saliſbury, *and held the manor of Welſh Bicknor* until her death, which happened in 1395. Henry was born at Monmouth, in 1387, and being a ſickly child, was probably ſent to Courtfield, in the pariſh of Welſh Bicknor, for a change of air, under the care of lady Montacute, who was equally with the noble infant deſcended from Edward the firſt. Although ſhe was not counteſs of Saliſbury herſelf, yet being daughter in law of one earl, ſiſter in law of another, and mother of a third, ſhe may have been eaſily miſcalled by that title. On comparing the effigies with others in Gough's ſepulchral monuments, the ſculpture accords with the ſtyle of the æra in which Margaret died.

Sir John de Montacute, her ſon, doing homage, had livery of all her lands; among which was the *manor of Welſh Bicknor*. On the deceaſe of his uncle William, without iſſue, in 1397, he ſucceeded to the earldom of Saliſbury, was appointed earl marſhal of England, became chief of the Lollards, and was maſſacred in 1400 by the populace at Cirenceſter, for a ſuppoſed attempt to reinſtate Richard the ſecond on the throne. Being attainted, his property was confiſcated, and the manor of Welſh Bicknor, with his other poſſeſſions, veſted in the crown. It was afterwards reſtored to the family, and conveyed through Alice his grand-daughter to her ſon Richard, the great earl of Warwick and

* An engraving of the figure is annexed, from a drawing taken on the ſpot, in which a few dilapidated parts, of no material conſequence, have been ſupplied by the artiſt.

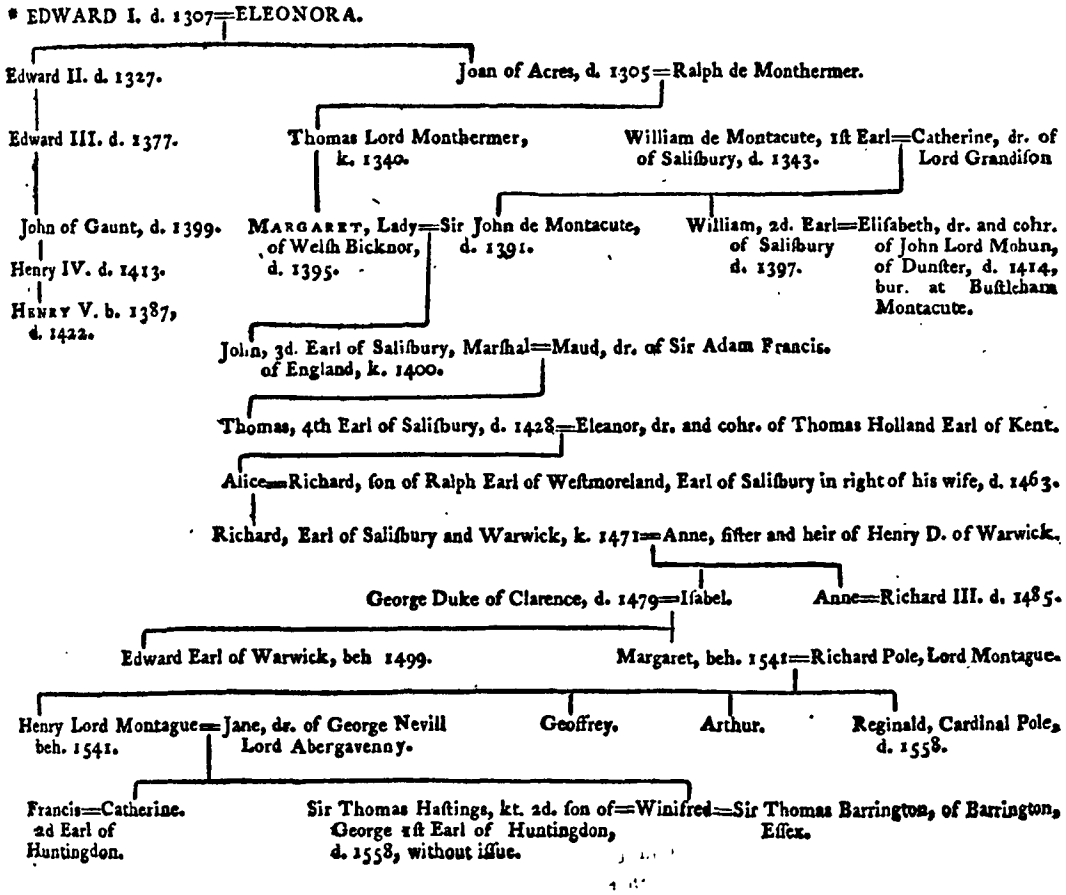
Birrdse

MONUMENTAL EFFIGIES

and Saliſbury. During the numerous attainders and confiſcations, which overwhelmed his unfortunate family, Welſh Bicknor was alternately poſſeſſed by the crown and his deſcendants.

The laſt perſon of his illuſtrious race mentioned by Dugdale as poſſeſſing Welſh Bicknor, is Margaret, daughter of the duke of Clarence, and wife of ſir Richard Pole, lord Montague. After witneſſing the impriſonment, attainder, and execution of her brother the earl of Warwick, and of her ſon Henry lord Montague, ſhe was beheaded in 1541; but in 1553, her grand-daughters were reſtored in blood and honour *.

From


* EDWARD I. d. 1307=ELEONORA.
Edward II. d. 1327.
Joan of Acres, d. 1305=Ralph de Monthermer.
Edward III. d. 1377.
Thomas Lord Monthermer, k. 1340.
William de Montacute, 1ſt Earl of Saliſbury, d. 1343.=Catherine, dr. of Lord Grandiſon
John of Gaunt, d. 1399.
MARGARET, Lady of Welſh Bicknor, d. 1395.=Sir John de Montacute, d. 1391.
William, 2d. Earl of Saliſbury d. 1397.=Eliſabeth, dr. and cohr. of John Lord Mohun, of Dunſter, d. 1414, bur. at Buſtleham Montacute.
Henry IV. d. 1413.
HENRY V. b. 1387, d. 1422.
John, 3d. Earl of Saliſbury, Marſhal of England, k. 1400.=Maud, dr. of Sir Adam Francis.
Thomas, 4th Earl of Saliſbury, d. 1428=Eleanor, dr. and cohr. of Thomas Holland Earl of Kent.
Alice=Richard, ſon of Ralph Earl of Weſtmoreland, Earl of Saliſbury in right of his wife, d. 1463.
Richard, Earl of Saliſbury and Warwick, k. 1471=Anne, ſiſter and heir of Henry D. of Warwick.
George Duke of Clarence, d. 1479=Iſabel.
Anne=Richard III. d. 1485.
Edward Earl of Warwick, beh. 1499.
Margaret, beh. 1541=Richard Pole, Lord Montague.
Henry Lord Montague beh. 1541.=Jane, dr. of George Nevill Lord Abergavenny.
Geoffrey.
Arthur.
Reginald, Cardinal Pole, d. 1558.
Francis=Catherine. 2d Earl of Huntingdon.
Sir Thomas Haſtings, kt. 2d. ſon of George 1ſt Earl of Huntingdon, d. 1558, without iſſue.=Winifred=Sir Thomas Barrington, of Barrington, Eſſex.

From this period I can diſcover no documents concerning the proprietors of Welſh Bicknor, until I find the manor and manſion of Courtfield in the poſſeſſion of the Vaughan * family. It appears from a pedigree in the Heralds' office, that in the reign of Eliſabeth, John Vaughan of Clifford Park in the county of Hereford, was lord of Welſh Bicknor. He married Anne, daughter of John Powell of Perthîr, and left one ſon, Richard, who died in 1697, aged 96, and who prevented the extinction of the family, by taking a ſecond wife, at the advanced age of 75; of which event a ſingular anecdote is related in the family. His only ſon who was ſettled at Huntſholme, having been long married without iſſue, the father frequently rallied him on the ſubject. Walking out with him one day, he ſaid, "Son, let me ſee if you can leap over this gate;" the ſon attempted, but did not ſucceed; on which the old gentleman vaulted over with great agility, and exclaimed, "As I have cleared the gate for you, ſo I believe I muſt e'en provide you with an heir." Soon after this event he fulfilled his promiſe, and eſpouſing Agatha, daughter of John Berrington, eſq, of Cowarne Court, in the county of Hereford, had three daughters, and a ſon named John, who, by the death of his elder brother, became ſole heir, and left iſſue by his ſecond wife, Eliſabeth, daughter of Philip Jones, eſq. of Lanarth Court; from his ſecond ſon, Richard, who was a general in the Spaniſh ſervice, William Vaughan, eſq. the preſent proprietor of Courtfield is deſcended.

A ſilver chalice, belonging to the church, bears the date of 1146; it is in the form of a vaſe, and the ſhape is not inelegant; had not the date aſcertained it, the zig zag ornaments, with which the edge is chaſed, would have proved it the workmanſhip of the Saxon, or early Norman æra.

We

* I ſhall not attempt to trace the early pedigree of the Vaughan family, which is undoubtedly of high antiquity; I ſhall only obſerve, that as the Vaughans of Clifford, as well as thoſe of Bredwardin, Hergeſt, Cliro, Llewes, Tretowre, and Talgarth, were deſcended from ſir Roger Vaughan, firſt huſband of Gladys, daughter of ſir David Gam, and as the preſent proprietors of Courtfield ſtill poſſeſs Cliro and and part of Llewes, the Vaughans of Courtfield are probably deſcended from the ſame illuſtrious anceſtry. But as the Herbert arms ſeem to have been borne by the family from the earlieſt reſidence in this place to the preſent time, ſome perſons have ſuppoſed them a collateral branch of the Herberts. The creſt, however, is that of the Vaughans; a child's head couped, the neck entwined with a ſerpent.

We re-embarked near the church; a little beyond the inſulated diſtrict of Monmouthſhire terminates, and the boatmen pointed out a fragment of rock lying in the bed of the river, which they called the county rock, and which marks the junction of the three counties; from this point the right bank lies in Herefordſhire, and the left in Gloceſterſhire. From the church of Welſh Bicknor, we proceeded without interruption to the New Weir; during this courſe, the ſcenery of the banks aſſumed a new character; hitherto it was of a mild and pleaſing caſt; the rocks which formed the riſing banks, were ſo entirely clothed with trees, as to be ſeldom viſible, or only ſeen occaſionally through the impending foliage; but in this part of the navigation, the rock became a primary object, and the ſtream waſhed the baſe of ſtupendous cliffs. Among theſe, the moſt remarkable are Coldwell Rocks, and Symond's Gate, forming a majeſtic amphitheatre, appearing, vaniſhing, and re-appearing, in different ſhapes, and with different combinations of wood and water; at one time ſtarting from the edge of the river, and forming a perpendicular rampart; at another towering above woods and hills, like the battlements of an immenſe caſtle, as much more ſublime than Goodrich, as nature is ſuperior to art. The weather was peculiarly favourable, the ſky clear and ſerene, the ſun ſhone in full ſplendour, illumined the projecting faces of the rock, and deepened the ſhade of the impervious woods, which mantle the oppoſite banks.

Here the meandring courſe of the river is peculiarly ſtriking; from the bottom of Symond's Gate to the New Weir, the direct line is not more than 600 yards *; but the diſtance by water exceeds four miles. At this ſpot the company uſually diſembark, mount the ſummit, and deſcending on the other ſide, rejoin the boat at the New Weir. From the top of Symond's Gate, which is not leſs than 2000 feet in height above the ſurface of the water, the ſpectator enjoys a ſingular view of the numerous mazes of the Wy, and looks down on the river, watering each ſide of the narrow and precipitous peninſula on which he ſtands. I continued the navigation, however, becauſe I was unwilling to loſe the

* Determined by Mr. Taylor. Heath's Voyage down the Wye, p. 7.

the beauties of the ever ſhifting ſcenery, and preferred a ſucceſſion of home views on the banks beneath, to the moſt boundleſs expanſe of proſpect from above.

In this part the ſides of the hills and the bed of the river were ſtrewed with enormous fragments of rock, which almoſt obſtructed the paſſage of the boat, and rendered the current extremely rapid. For ſome way the fore ground of the landſcape was comparatively tame and dull; but the back ground was ſtill formed by the ſublime rocks of Coldwell. At the ferry of Hunſton, which is only one mile from Goodrich by land, but ſeven by water, the rocks diſappear, and are ſucceeded by a ridge of eminences, covered with an intermixture of heath and foreſt, until we paſſed the pleaſant village of Whitchurch, and reached the New Weir, at which place a ſluice is formed for the paſſage of boats.

The views at the New Weir equal in romantic beauty the ſcenery at Coldwell rocks; the deep vale in which the river flows, is bounded on one ſide by the Great Doward, a ſloping hill ſprinkled with lime kilns and cottages, and overhanging ſome iron works ſeated on the margin of the water; on the other riſes the chain of precipices forming the ſide of the peninſula, which is oppoſite to Coldwell rocks, and vies with them in ruggedneſs and ſublimity. Near the iron works, a weir ſtretches tranſverſely acroſs the ſtream, over which the river, above ſmooth and tranquil, falls in no inconſiderable cataract, and roaring over fragments of rock, is gradually loſt in the midſt of impending woods.

The remainder of our navigation preſented a ſucceſſion of beautiful ſcenes, perpetually varied by the undulations of the hills, the richneſs of the woods, and the abrupt windings of the river, until we reached the bottom of the Little Doward, whoſe precipitous ſides preſent a rugged rampart of rock. Turning round its ſouthern extremity, we paſſed under the Lays, a houſe delightfully ſituated at the foot of the precipice, overlooking the water, and caught a long reach of the river, terminating in a perſpective view of Monmouth bridge, and part of the town, with the ſpire riſing amid tufts of trees.

Monmouthſhire here commences on the left bank, with the rich groves of Hadnock;

Hadnock *; on the right, the county is divided from Herefordſhire by a ſmall brook, which croſſes the turnpike road leading from Monmouth to Roſs, and falls into the Wy. We paſſed on one ſide a chain of wooded eminences, which ſtretch from Hadnock to the Kymin, on the other a ſucceſſion of rich meadows, with the ſmall but ſequeſtered church of Dixon, ſtanding near the margin of the river, and finiſhed the firſt day's navigation at Monmouth.

* Hadnock manor once formed part of the duchy of Lancaſter, and was compriſed in the manor of Monmouth. It appears from the archives, that in the ſixth of Eliſabeth, an order was iſſued from the chancery court, "to bound out the demeſnes of Hadnock from the copyhold;" and in the twenty-ſeventh, a commiſſion "was ordered to ſurvey Hadnock woods." In the reign of Eliſabeth, Charles Herbert, ſon of ſir William Herbert of Coldbrook, by Jane, daughter of Thomas ap John of Treowen, was ſeated at Hadnock; his ſon Giles married Eleanor, daughter of Henry Herbert of Wonaſtow, by lady Lucy Somerſet. Sandford, p. 348. It is now the reſidence of the Rev. Dr. Griffin.

CHAPTER 36.

Navigation of the Wy.—From Monmouth to Tintern.—Ruins of the Abbey Church.—From Tintern to Chepſtow.

WE embarked on the ſubſequent morning at nine, below Monmouth bridge, and continued our navigation; the banks on each ſide are low, and the country level, but bounded at a little diſtance by ridges of hills; on the right towered the Kymin crowned by the pavilion, on the left we ſkirted the pleaſant meadow of Chippenham, and paſſed the mouth of the Monnow, which falls tranquilly into the Wy. Behind, we looked back upon a pleaſing view of the town, and before the hanging woods of Troy Park formed a delightful object in the landſcape, as they roſe above the banks of the Trothy, which poured rapidly through a deep and narrow channel, and diſcoloured with its muddy ſtream the purer current of the Wy.

About two miles from Monmouth, a ſmall ſtream called Redbrook ſeparates Monmouthſhire from Gloceſterſhire, from which point the Wy continues the boundary of the two counties; here is a ſmall village, where a ferry, and ſome iron and tin works, give animation to the romantic ſcenery. Beyond Redbrook the river forms a grand ſweep, and flows in an abyſs, between two ranges of lofty hills, thickly overſpread with woods, the gloom of which was ſoftened by the diverſified tints of the autumnal foliage.

In a few places the banks are leſs ſteep, expand into gentle undulations, are ſkirted by narrow meadows, and admit occaſional views of the diſtant country; among which the church and caſtle of St. Briaval's, crowning the ſummit of an

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GENERAL VIEW OF TINTERN ABBEY.

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eminence in the foreſt of Dean, are pleaſing objects. We were then hurried along a rapid current, called Big's Weir, where the river eddies over fragments of rock, leaving only a narrow ſpace for the paſſage of boats. In this picturesque ſpot the ſeat of general Rooke, member for the county of Monmouth, ſtands on the left bank, and on the oppoſite ſide Pilſon Houſe appears in the back ground. From hence the river winds by the beautiful hamlet of Landogo, ſituated in a ſmall plain tufted with woods, and backed by an amphitheatre of lofty hills; the view of the church peeping through the trees is extremely picturesque, and is well repreſented by Mr. Ireland *.

Brook's Weir, a village ſituated on the left bank, nearly half way between Monmouth and Chepſtow, exhibits the appearance of trade and activity. Numerous veſſels from 80 to 90 tons were anchored near the ſhore, waiting for the tide, which uſually flows no higher than this place. Theſe veſſels principally belong to Briſtol, and aſcend the river for the purpoſe of receiving the commodities brought from Hereford and Monmouth, in the barges of the Wy, which on account of the ſhoals do not draw more than five or ſix inches of water.

During the courſe of the navigation from Roſs, we paſſed ſeveral ſmall fiſhing craft, called Truckles or Coricles †, ribbed with laths or baſket work, and covered with pitched canvaſs. Like a canoe, the coricle holds only one perſon, who navigates it by means of a paddle with one hand, and fiſhes with the other; theſe boats are ſo light, that the fiſhermen throw them on their ſhoulders and carry them home.

We diſembarked about half a mile above the village of Tintern, and followed the ſinuous courſe of the Wy. As we advanced to the village, we paſſed ſome picturesque ruins hanging over the edge of the water, which are ſuppoſed to have formed part of the abbot's villa, and other buildings occupied by the monks; ſome of theſe remains are converted into dwellings and cottages, others are interſperſed among the iron founderies and habitations.

The

* See Picturesque Views on the Wye, p. 131. † The name coricle is ſuppoſed to be derived from corium a hide, with which ſome of theſe boats were occaſionally covered.

The firſt appearance of the celebrated remains of the abbey church, did not equal my expectations, as they are half concealed by mean buildings, and the triangular ſhape of the gable ends has a formal appearance.

After paſſing a miſerable row of cottages, and forcing our way through a crowd of importunate beggars, we ſtopped to examine the rich architecture of the weſt front; but the door being ſuddenly opened, the inſide perſpective of the church called forth an inſtantaneous burſt of admiration, and filled me with delight, ſuch as I ſcarcely ever before experienced on a ſimilar occaſion. The eye paſſes rapidly along a range of elegant gothic pillars, and glancing under the ſublime arches which ſupported the tower, fixes itſelf on the ſplendid relics of the eaſtern window, the grand termination of the choir.

From the length of the nave, the height of the walls, the aſpiring form of the pointed arches, and the ſize of the eaſt window, which cloſes the perſpective, the firſt impreſſions are thoſe of grandeur and ſublimity. But as theſe emotions ſubſide, and we deſcend from the contemplation of the whole to the examination of the parts, we are no leſs ſtruck with the regularity of the plan, the lightneſs of the architecture, and the delicacy of the ornaments; we feel that elegance is its characteriſtic no leſs than grandeur, and that the whole is a combination of the beautiful and the ſublime.

This church was conſtructed in the ſhape of a cathedral, and is an excellent ſpecimen of gothic architecture in its greateſt purity. The roof is fallen in, and the whole ruin open to the ſky, but the ſhell is entire; all the pillars are ſtanding, except thoſe which divided the nave from the northern aiſle, and their ſituation is marked by the remains of the baſes. The four lofty arches which ſupported the tower, ſpring high in the air, reduced to narrow rims of ſtone, yet ſtill preſerving their original form. The arches and pillars of the choir and tranſept are complete; the ſhapes of all the windows may be ſtill diſcriminated, and the frame of the weſt window is in perfect preſervation; the deſign of the tracery is extremely elegant, and when decorated with painted glaſs, muſt have produced a fine effect. Critics who cenſure this window as too broad for its height, do not conſider, that it was not intended for a

particular

J.N.Grimm del.t W.B.direx.t

INSIDE OF TINTERN ABBEY, WEST VIEW.

particular object, but to harmoniſe with the *general* plan; and had the architect diminiſhed the breadth in proportion to the height, the grand effect of the perſpective would have been conſiderably leſſened.

The general form of the eaſt window is entire, but the frame is much dilapidated; it occupies the whole breadth of the choir, and is divided into two large and equal compartments *, by a ſlender ſhaft not leſs than fifty feet in height, which has an appearance of ſingular lightneſs, and in particular points of view ſeems ſuſpended in the air.

Nature has added her ornaments to the decorations of art; ſome of the windows are wholly obſcured, others partially ſhaded with tufts of ivy or edged with lighter foliage; the tendrils creep along the walls, wind round the pillars, wreath the capitals, or hanging down in cluſters obſcure the ſpace beneath.

Inſtead of dilapidated fragments overſpread with weeds and choked with brambles, the floor is covered with a ſmooth turf, which by keeping the original level of the church, exhibits the beauty of its proportions, heightens the effect of the grey ſtone, gives a relief to the cluſtered pillars, and affords an eaſy acceſs to every part. Ornamented fragments of the roof, remains of cornices and columns, rich pieces of ſculpture, ſepulchral ſtones and mutilated figures † of monks and heroes, whoſe aſhes repoſe within theſe walls, are ſcattered on the greenſward, and contraſt preſent deſolation with former ſplendor ‡.

Although the exterior appearance of the ruins is not equal to the inſide view, yet in ſome poſitions, particularly to the eaſt, they preſent themſelves with conſiderable effect. While ſir Richard Hoare was employed in ſketching the

* William of Worceſter deſcribes it as divided into eight compartments, and ornamented with the arms of Roger de Bigod the founder. Itin. p. 79. The height of the window is 60 feet, and the breadth 27. The height of the eaſt, weſt, north and ſouth windows, and of the four center arches which ſupported the tower, from the ground to the point of the arch, is 67 feet.

† Among other ſepulchral figures is the mutilated effigies of a man in a coat of mail, with his ſhield on his left arm, which is erroneouſly ſuppoſed to repreſent Richard Strongbow, earl of Pembroke, and great nephew of Walter de Clare, the founder of the abbey, who, according to Leland, was buried in the Chapter houſe of Gloceſter. According to Groſe his right hand has five fingers and a thumb, but the ſculpture is ſo rude, that I could not aſcertain whether it has four or five fingers.

‡ The plan of this church is given on the ſame plate with that of Lanthony Abbey. See chap. 22.

the north weſtern ſide, I croſſed the ferry and walked down the ſtream about half a mile. From this point the ruins aſſuming a new character, ſeem to occupy a gentle eminence and impend over the river, without the intervention of a ſingle cottage to obſtruct the view. The grand eaſt window, wholly covered with ſhrubs and half mantled with ivy, riſes like the portal of a majeſtic edifice embowered in wood. Through this opening and along the viſta of the church, the cluſters of ivy, which twine round the pillars or hang ſuſpended from the arches, reſemble tufts of trees, while the thick mantle of foliage, ſeen through the tracery of the weſt window, forms a continuation of the perſpective, and appears like an interminable foreſt.

The abbey of Tintern was founded in 1131, for Ciſtertian monks, by Walter de Clare, and dedicated to St. Mary. On his death without iſſue, the patronage was transferred to Gilbert, ſurnamed Strongbow, who became lord of Striguil or Chepſtow, and was created earl of Pembroke. The endowments of the abbey were increaſed by Gilbert and his ſucceſſors in the lordſhip of Chepſtow *. William of Worceſter has preſerved the names of the benefactors, among whom was Roger de Bigod, earl of Norfolk, who built the church. He likewiſe informs us, that in October 1268, the abbot and monks entered the choir of the new church, and celebrated the firſt maſs at the high altar †. Probably, however, only part of the edifice was completed, as during this period it was not unuſual to conſtruct and conſecrate the choir, and afterwards complete the remainder ‡. This opinion is corroborated by the ſtyle of the architecture in ſome parts of the church, particularly in the tracery of the weſt window, which ſeems poſterior to the æra of the dedication.

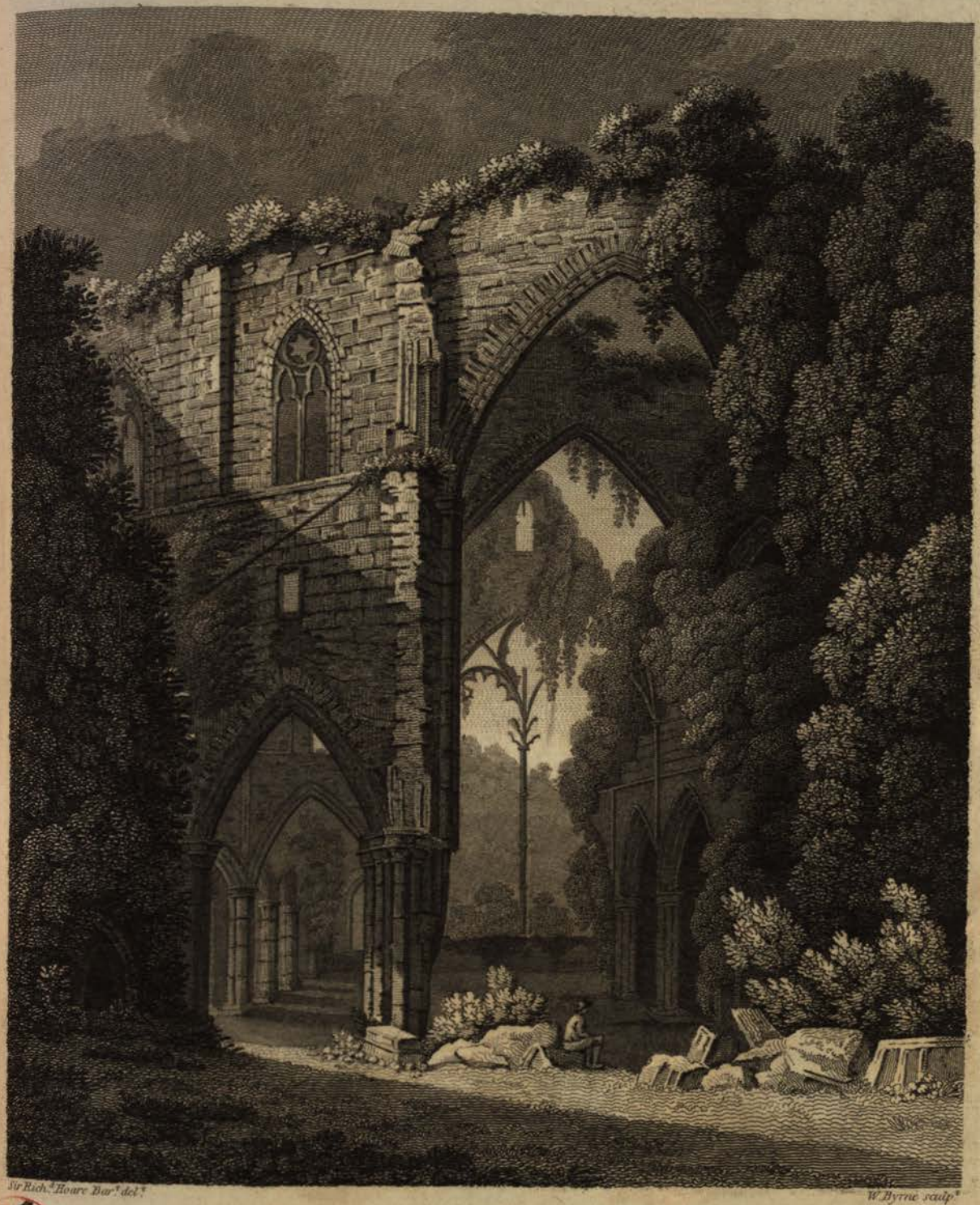
At the time of the diſſolution the abbey contained thirteen religious, and the eſtates were valued at £.132. 1 s. 4 d. per annum, according to Dugdale, but according to Speed, at £.256. 11 s. 6 d. The ſite was granted in 28 of Henry VIII. to Henry ſecond earl of Worceſter §, who poſſeſſed the caſtle of Chepſtow, and is now

* For the proprietors of Chepſtow caſtle, ſee chapter 39.

† It. p. 77, 132.

‡ Bentham's Ely.

§ Dugdale, Monaſt. vol. 1. p. 721. 724. In Steevens's Supplement, vol. 2. p. 57. there is a plan of the church, and an elevation of the weſt end.—Tanner, art. Monmouthſhire.



Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne sculp.t

INSIDE OF TINTERN ABBEY, EAST VIEW.

now the property of the duke of Beaufort. The picturesque appearance of the ruins is considerably heightened by their position in a valley watered by the meandring Wy, and backed by wooded eminences, which rise abruptly from the river, unite a pleasing intermixture of wildness and culture, and temper the gloom of monastic solitude with the beauties of nature.

From Tintern the Wy assumes the character of a tide river; the water is no longer transparent, and except at high tide the banks are covered with slime; to enjoy therefore the full beauty of this part of the navigation, the traveller should seize the moment in which it begins to ebb, when the height and fulness of the river, aided by the picturesque scenery, compensates for the discoloured appearance of the stream.

The impressions of pleasing melancholy, which I received from contemplating the venerable ruins, were increased by the deep solitude and romantic grandeur of the woods and rocks overhanging the river, and heightened by the gloom of a clouded atmosphere.

Hitherto the Wy did not pursue so serpentine a course or present such naked and stupendous cliffs as during yesterday's navigation; but in the vicinity of Piercefield, the sinuosities re-appear, and the rocks do not yield in majestic ruggedness to those of Coldwell and the New Weir. The long line of Banagor crags forms a perpendicular rampart on the left bank, wholly bare except where a few shrubs spring from the crevices or fringe their summits; on the opposite side, the river is skirted by narrow slips of rich pasture rising into wooded acclivities, on which towers the Wynd* cliff, a perpendicular mass of rock, overhung with thickets.

At this place the Wy turns abruptly round the fertile peninsula of Lancaut, under the stupendous amphitheatre of Piercefield cliffs, starting from the edge of the water; here wholly mantled with wood, there jutting in bold and fantastic projections†, which appear like enormous buttresses formed by the hand of nature. At the further extremity of this peninsula, the river again turns, and stretches in a long reach, between the white and towering

* Supposed to be a corruption of Wy-cliff.

† Some of these projections are called the twelve Apostles, and another St. Peter's Thumb.

towering cliffs of Lancaut, and the rich acclivities of Piercefield woods. In the midſt of theſe grand and pictureſque ſcenes the embattled turrets of Chepſtow caſtle burſt upon our ſight; and as we glided under the perpendicular crag, we looked up with aſtoniſhment to the maſſive walls impending over the edge of the precipice, and appearing like a continuation of the rock itſelf; before ſtretched the long and pictureſque bridge, and the view was cloſed by a ſemicircular range of red cliffs, tinted with pendent foliage, which form the left bank of the river.

PLAN OF CHEPSTOW

Turv. & del.

CHAPTER 37.

Chepſtow.—Situation.—Height of the Tide.—Bridge.—Trade.—Ancient Priory.—Church.—Priory of St. Kynemark.—Remarkable Well.—Situation of the old Bridge.

CHEPSTOW is ſeated in a deep hollow incloſed by impending hills, and occupies the ſide of a declivity ſhelving to the right bank of the Wy, which here bends in a ſemicircular form. From this poſition the approach to it from the New Paſſage is extremely ſingular; at the diſtance of only a quarter of a mile, the maſts of the ſhipping ſeem to riſe in the midſt of an immenſe ſtone quarry, of which the perpendicular cliffs of the Wy form the ſide, but not a ſingle houſe can be diſtinguiſhed. On reaching the brow of the eminence, the town ſuddenly appears ſhelving to the bank of the river, and a ſingular intermixture of buildings, veſſels, cliffs, water, and wood is preſented to view. A rapid deſcent leads through an old gothic gateway *, which formed the entrance of the ancient town, to the market place, and from thence to the bridge over the Wy.

The appearance of the town is cheerful and animated, the inhabitants ſeem active and induſtrious, and the population amounts to near 2,000 ſouls †.

I have

* At this gate a toll is demanded from all perſons, not holding, as it is called, a freedom under the duchy, who bring any articles, however ſmall in quantity or value, for ſale, or who have purchaſed live ſtock at fairs, and paſs through the gate. The right is in the duke of Beaufort, but is now leaſed out on a life or lives.

† A liſt of the births and burials in the town of Chepſtow during a period of ten years:

	Births.	Burials.		Births.	Burials.
1789	49	32	1794	38	35
1790	44	42	1795	49	50
1791	42	54	1796	48	39
1792	41	37	1797	56	39
1793	43	68	1798	54	58

In 1798, the number of males from 16 to 60, capable of bearing arms, amounted to 400.

I have ſeldom viſited any town whoſe pictureſque ſituation ſurpaſſes that of Chepſtow: it is truly obſerved by my friend Mr. Wyndham, "the beauties are ſo uncommonly excellent, that the moſt exact critic in landſcape would ſcarcely wiſh to alter a poſition in the aſſemblage of woods, cliffs, ruins, and water."

The eminences which tower over the town are thickly overſpread with wood; among which the rich groves of Piercefield riſe conſpicuous.

The romantic cliffs of the Wy are here extremely pictureſque, particularly the ridge, which forms the left bank of the river below the bridge; it is lofty, perpendicular, of a concave form, and tinted with various hues; white, grey, red, and yellow are beautifully blended, while green is ſuperadded by the foliage of the oak that ſkirts the top and ſhades the ſides, or by large cluſters of ivy, ſtarting from the crevices at all heights and twining in all directions.

The ponderous remains of the caſtle form a grand and prominent feature in this diverſified ſcenery; they cover a large tract of ground, and ſtretch along the brow of the perpendicular cliff which impends over the Wy.

On my arrival at Chepſtow I walked to the bridge; it was low water, and I looked down on the river ebbing between forty and fifty feet beneath; ſix hours after it roſe near forty feet, almoſt reached the floor of the bridge, and flowed upwards with great rapidity. The channel in this place being narrow in proportion to the Severn, and confined between perpendicular cliffs, the great riſe and fall of the river are peculiarly manifeſt; hence it has been echoed from one publication to another, that the tide at Chepſtow is higher than in any other place in the world, at an average 50 or 60 feet, and on ſome extraordinary occaſions not leſs than 70.

To aſcertain the truth of this aſſertion I plumbed the river, with the aſſiſtance of Mr. Jennings and an experienced boatman, at high tide on the fourth of September. The perpendicular height, from the bottom of the channel to the ſurface of the water, was 47 feet 3 inches, from the water to the floor of the bridge 6 feet, and 2 feet 10 inches to a notch in the rail,

which marks the greateſt riſe; hence the higheſt tide during the memory of the preſent generation does not exceed 56 feet 1 inch, which though very conſiderable, is by no means greater than that of many other places on the globe. Perhaps the rapidity of the flood up the Severn and Wy is more remarkable than its height; it is high water at Chepſtow, as Mr. Jennings informs me, before it is at the Pill, up the river Avon, which is only two miles and a half from King-road, whereas Chepſtow is eleven miles. The cauſe of this rapid riſe at Chepſtow, is derived from the projection of the rocks at Beachley and Auſt, juſt above the mouth of the Wy, which turn part of the tide with great violence into this river.

The floor of the bridge is level, and of a ſimilar conſtruction to that of Caerleon *. The middle pier, a maſſive pillar of ſtone, ſeparates the counties of Monmouth and Gloceſter; formerly all the other piers were of wood, but to avoid the expence of continual repairs, the county of Monmouth erected piers of ſtone, while thoſe on the Gloceſterſhire ſide ſtill remain in their original ſtate.

The floor of the bridge on the ſide of Gloceſterſhire is ſupported by wooden piers, near 40 feet in height, reſting on platforms of ſtone, which riſe above low water mark. The carpentry of the piers, which are ſo contrived as to preſent only a narrow ſurface to the current of the river, is extremely ingenious, and was probably formed on the Roman model †. By the kindneſs of Mr. Jennings, I am enabled to preſent an engraving, which exhibits the ſtructure of a pier and platform, and the appearance of the bridge at low water.

The Wy being the only navigable river in Herefordſhire and the weſtern part of Monmouthſhire, Chepſtow, which is a creek of Caerdiff, ſupplies the inland diſtricts with the neceſſary imports, and exports the native and wrought commodities. In 1792, the ſhipping belonging to this place amounted to 2,800 tons, and in 1799 was increaſed to 3,500; but upwards of 1,200 veſſels annually enter and clear this port, including their repeated voyages.

The principal exports are timber, of which a thouſand loads per month have been occaſionally ſhipped for the dock yards, large quantities of grain for the Briſtol

* See p. 100. † Ibid.

Briſtol market, and the different manufactures of the country, namely, pig, wrought, and bar iron, wire, tin plates, coal, tar, grind and mill ſtones, paper and cider *, Oak bark likewiſe is a conſiderable article of export, and is uſually ſhipped from hence for Ireland; the average annual quantity cannot be eſtimated at leſs than 6,000 tons; but from peculiar circumſtances in 1799 it exceeded 9,000. In that year the Iriſh agents paid nine guineas per ton on the ſpot, and in ſome places fourteen pounds †.

The imports are ſhop goods, furniture, iron ore from Lancaſhire, linen from Ireland, cloth, wine, beer, and a few other commodities for interior conſumption; alſo from the Baltic, deals, hemp, iron, pitch and tar, and tallow.

In time of peace the foreign trade is not inconſiderable, but at preſent is principally confined to Ireland. Tables of the exports and imports, with an account of the veſſels and tonnage for a ſeries of years, are inſerted in the appendix; theſe ſtatements however do not aſcertain the whole extent of the trade, as many of the veſſels which ſail from the Wy are not regiſtered at Chepſtow.

"There was an alien priory of Benedictine monks at Chepſtow, called in the Norman æra the monaſtery of Strigule ‡; it was founded by one of the proprietors of the caſtle ſoon after the conqueſt, and was a cell to the abbey of Cormeille in Normandy. It was dedicated to St. Mary, and ſeiſed by the crown, but reſtored 1 H. 4. King Edward 4, anno regni 2, granted it to the college called God's Houſe in Cambridge, but that grant ſeems not to have taken effect,

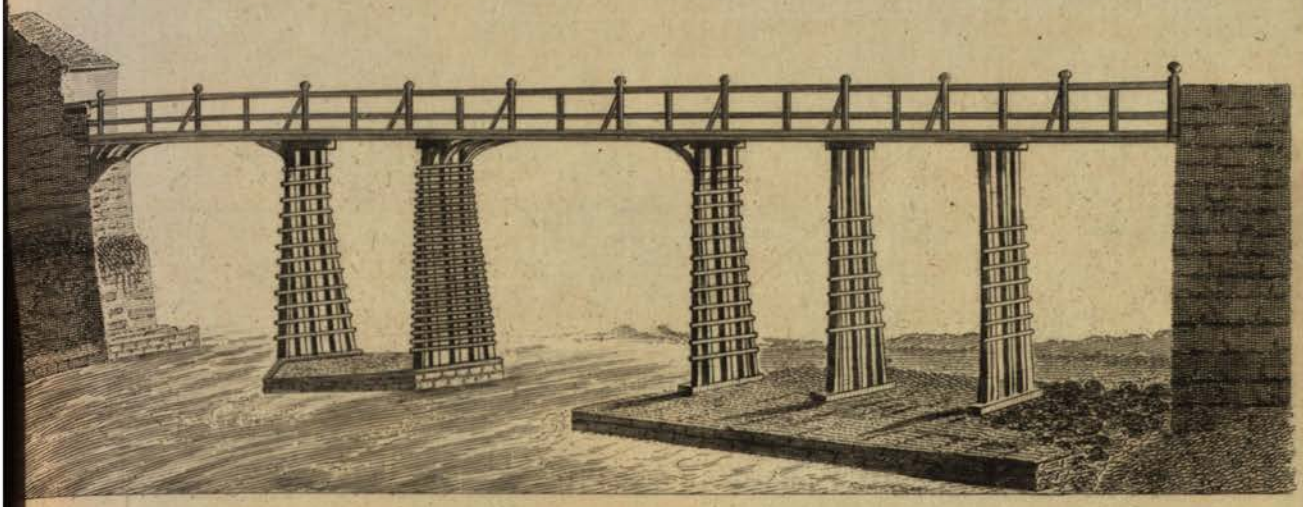
* For this account of the trade, and many other curious particulars relating to Chepſtow, I am principally indebted to my friend Thomas Jennings, eſq. collector of the cuſtoms, to whom I cannot ſufficiently expreſs my obligations for his kind and indefatigable exertions in forwarding my reſearches.

† The price of bark is extremely fluctuating; in ſome years it has been ſold as low as £.3. 10s. per ton, but the average price may be eſtimated at £.7.

‡ See the next chapter. Tanner juſtly obſerves, "Though there is a place not far from Chepſtow named Strighal, yet the monaſteries of Strigule and Chepſtow ſeem to have been the ſame; for that in the ancient valuations where Strigule is valued, there is no mention of Chepſtow; and in the late valuations where Chepſtow is valued, there is no mention of Strigule. Nor is there any mention of Chepſtow amongſt all the donations to Cormeil; but Striguil with its chapels and appurtenances is thereto given; as Mon. Angl. vol. ii. p. 964. The founder of Tintern abbey is called in Leland's Itin. vol. iv. p. 22. "Dom. de Stroghil, alias Chepſtow." And I am informed that Chepſtow is called Striguile in old writings, and that the manor court is held by that name now."

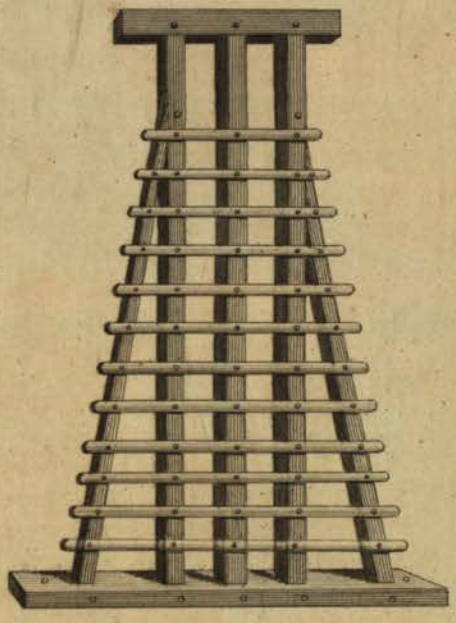
Notitia Monaſtica, art. Monmouthſhire.

View of Chepstow Bridge on the side of Glocestershire.



A Platform.

A Pier.



Neele sculp.t 352 Strand.

effect, becauſe there was a priory till the diſſolution, when it had three religious, and was valued at £.32. per annum *." In 1534, Robert Shrewſbury, prior, and Robert Tewkeſbury ſubſcribed to the ſupremacy †.

Scarcely any remains of the ancient priory can be traced, but the preſent pariſh church was part of the chapel, and is a curious remnant of Norman architecture. The body was once the nave of a much larger ſtructure, built in the form of a cathedral, and at the eaſtern extremity appears one of the lofty arches which ſupported the tower. The nave is ſeparated from the ſide aiſles by a grand range of circular arches, repoſing on maſſive piers, which have a venerable and ſolemn appearance. The windows are ornamented gothic, much poſterior to the æra of the original ſtructure.

The entrance to the north is through a gothic porch, which covers the original doorway, formed by a ſemicircular arch enriched with zig zag mouldings, and ſupported by two columns; but the entrance at the weſt front is a magnificent portal in the higheſt ſtate of preſervation; it conſiſts of a ſemicircular arch repoſing on receding columns, and richly decorated with diviſions of diagonal and diamond mouldings, peculiar to the Saxon and early Norman ſtyle ‡. The three windows above, of which the middle is moſt ornamented, are in the ſame ſtyle, and were built at the ſame period. The tower raiſed on this front is the addition of the preſent century, and is ridiculouſly ornamented with Greek pilaſters, which ill accord with the Norman architecture beneath.

The original tower, which ſtood at the eaſtern extremity of the preſent church, fell down about ninety years ago; according to the account of the old clerk, one Evans, a bell-founder, who died in 1770, aged eighty, aſcended to the top a few days before its fall. On the outſide of the church, at the angles of the eaſt end, I noticed ſeveral ancient cluſtered columns, from which the arches of the tower probably ſprung.

The circular arches and zig zag ornaments evidently mark the antiquity of this edifice. The exact æra of the conſtruction is not known, but it was certainly erected

* Tanner.

† Willis's Hiſtory of Abbies, vol. 2, p. 142.

‡ See the annexed engraving. It is remarkable that the capitals of theſe receding columns are ſimilar, which diſtinguiſhes it from the Saxon ſtyle, in which the capitals were generally diſſimilar.

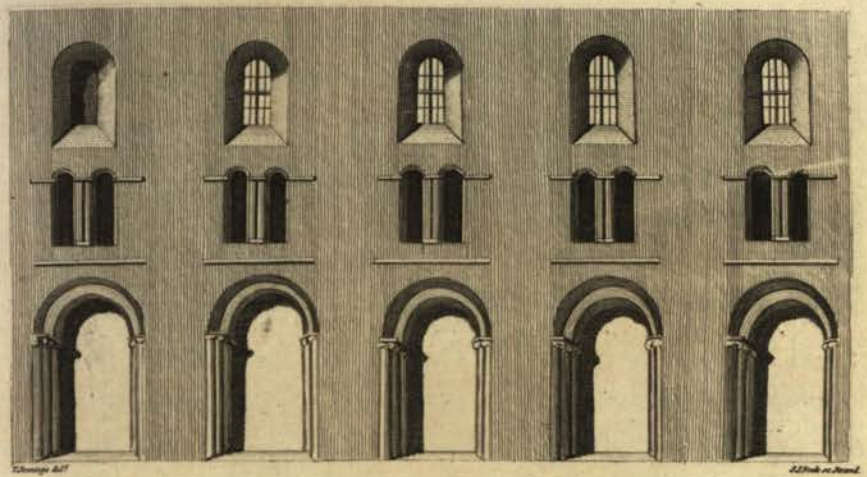
erected ſoon after the conqueſt; for it is mentioned as early as the reign of king Stephen, and in 1168, in a bull of pope Alexander the third, which confirms the church of Striguil and other donations to the abbey of Cormeilles *. An ancient deed alſo ſtates the prior of Striogull to have a right to houſe-boot and hay-boot in Wentwood, *from the conqueſt* †.

On the ſouth ſide of the chancel is a tomb of free ſtone painted and gilt, of which an accurate engraving is given by Sandford ‡; under a canopy ſupported by eight corinthian pillars are placed the whole length figures of Henry, ſecond earl of Worceſter, and lord Herbert of Chepſtow, Raglan, and Gower, and his wife Eliſabeth, who was daughter and coheireſs of ſir Anthony Brown, knight, ſtandard-bearer of England. Of this peer Dugdale ſays, "which Henry, in 12 H. 8. (his father then living) bearing the title of lord Herbert, upon that famous interview betwixt Ardres and Guiſnes, by king Henry and Francis the firſt of France, where all feats of arms were exerciſed for the ſpace of forty days on horſe and foot, was one of the challengers on the part of the Engliſh. And in 15 H. 8 accompanied the duke of Suffolk into France, at which time divers caſtles and ſtrong places were by him won. In which ſervice he merited ſo well, as that he had the honour of knighthood conferred on him by that duke. And in 17 H. 8. (ſhortly after his father's death) was appointed one of the commiſſioners for concluding a peace with the French. In 18 H. 8. he had a ſpecial livery of all the lands, which, either by the death of his father or Eliſabeth (daughter and heir to William earl of Huntington) did by inheritance deſcend to him. In 22 H. 8. he was one of the peers who ſubſcribed that declaration, then ſent to pope Clement the ſeventh, intimating to him, that the loſs of his ſupremacy here would be endangered, in caſe he did not comply with king Henry in that buſineſs of his divorce from queen Katherine. And in 5 E. 6. accompanied the marqueſs of Northampton into France, who being then ſent embaſſador to that king, preſented him with the order of the garter §." He died in 1549, aged fifty-three years.

There are ſeveral remains of religious houſes at Chepſtow and in the vicinity. The priory of St. Kynmercy, St. Kunimerici, or St. Kynemark, occupied a plea-

ſant

* Dugdale, Mon. vol. 2. p. 963. † Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, appendix, No. 73. ‡ Genealogical Hiſtory. § Dugdale, vol. 2. p. 294.



ELEVATION of the SOUTH SIDE of the NAVE.

Published Jan.ry 1.st 1800, by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

CHEPSTOW CHURCH.

Published March 1.st 1800 by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

ſant eminence to the weſt of the town. It was probably endowed ſoon after the conqueſt; for in 1270 the prior was one of the jury ſummoned to Striogull or Chepſtow, to determine who ought to have houſe-boot and hay-boot in Went-wood *; and is mentioned in the Lincoln taxation in 1291, as poſſeſſing lands and rents to the value of £.7. 2s. 10d. per annum at Kynemark, Landerſton, Striguil, and as rector of St. Kynemark, St. Aron, and Porcaſſig †. The remains of the priory are ſtill viſible near the turnpike leading from Chepſtow to Monmouth, not far from Piercefield lodge; they conſiſt of ſtone walls, encloſing the garden and yard of a farm houſe belonging to colonel Wood, ſtill denominated St. Kynemark's farm.

The ruins of the chapel no longer exiſt, and thoſe of another chapel, dedicated to St. Laurence, which ſtood near the priory, at the weſt end of a field called the Upper Dean, can only be traced from the foundations. From this ancient chapel the hamlet ſtill bears the name of St. Laurence, and the fields which belong to the Croſs Green Farm are yet aſſeſſed with the church-poor rates; it is annexed to St. Arvans. If the traveller paſſes to theſe ruins along the Shire Newton road, and through the fields at the back of Mrs. Baldwyn's houſe called the Mount, he will enjoy a view of Chepſtow, with the environs, which will be highly gratifying from its ſingularity and beauty.

In the town I obſerved the remains of ſeveral chapels. Near the Beaufort Arms are two ſtone buildings, which are now uſed for a barn and coach houſe; the one has a gothic, and the other a rounded arched doorway; the windows are ancient, and both bear the appearance of having been uſed as chapels. Oppoſite to the Beaufort Arms a ſmall vault, under Fydell's long room, probably the crypt of a chapel, deſerves to be viſited on account of the ſtone roof, which is vaulted and engroined, and ſimilar to the roofs of the ſubterraneous cellars in Chepſtow caſtle. Within the memory of ſome of the inhabitants, part of the wall of the chapel with the eaſt window was ſtanding. In St. Anne's or Bridge ſtreet are likewiſe the remains of two ancient religious edifices. One of theſe, which ſtands near the bridge, was the chapel of St. Anne, and is now uſed

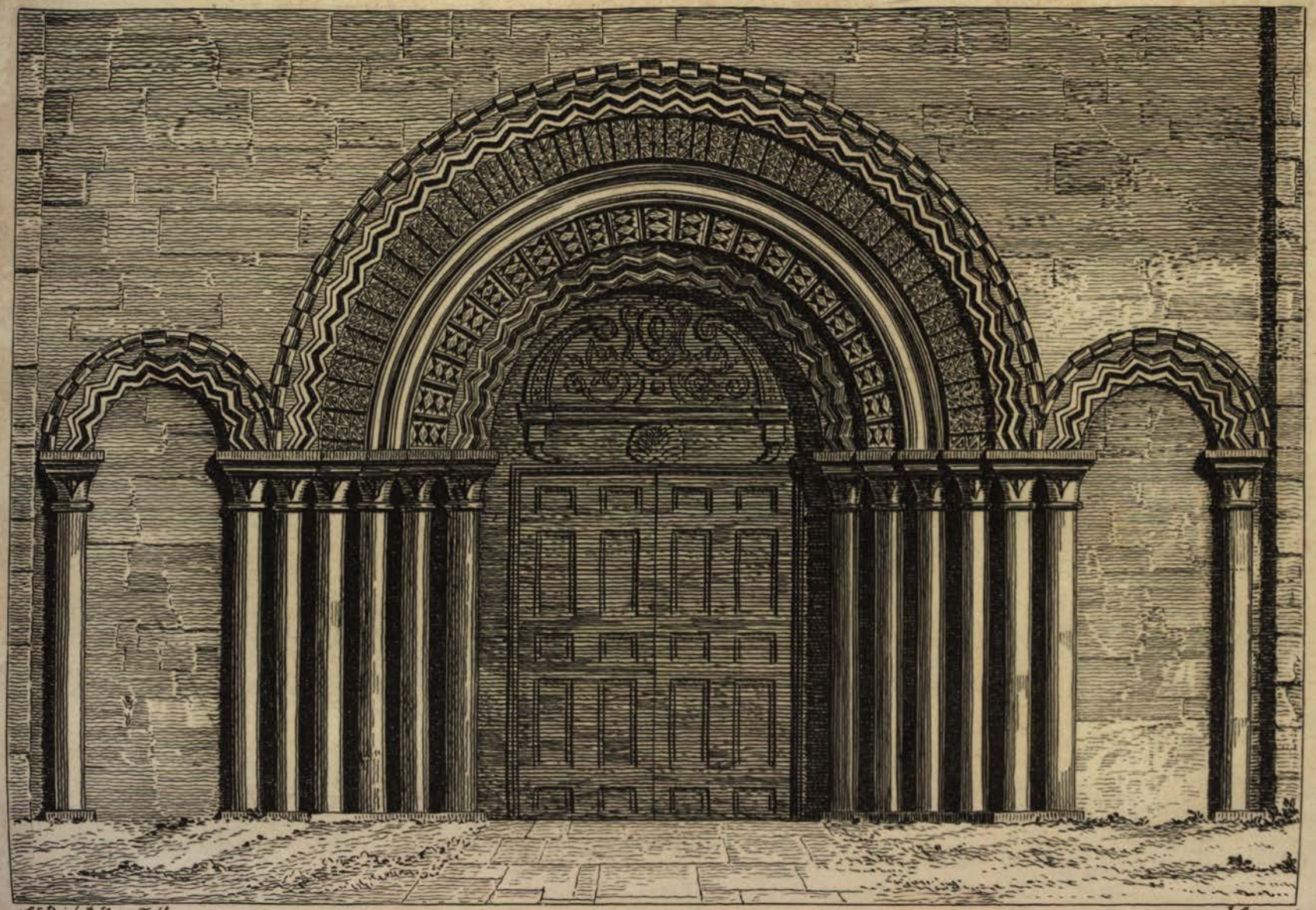
* Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, appendix, p. 119. † Tanner's Notitia Monaſtica, art. Monmouthſhire.

uſed as a bark houſe; the other adjoins to Powis's alms-houſe, and was dedicated to St. Owen, or Ewen.

Chepſtow contains a curious phenomenon in natural hiſtory; in the garden of a houſe in Bridge ſtreet, is a well remarkable for the goodneſs of its water, which at high tide becomes perfectly dry. A ſhort time before high water it begins to ſubſide, and returns ſoon after the ebb; it is not affected by wet or dry weather, but the decreaſe and increaſe regularly correſpond with the flow and ebb of the tide. The well is thirty-two feet deep, and not unfrequently contains fourteen feet of water.

According to tradition the bridge over the Wy was formerly half a mile above the preſent bridge, at a place called Eddis, nearly oppoſite to the alcove in Piercefield grounds, and ſeemingly in a direction leading towards an ancient encampment which encircles the grotto. The remains of the abutments are ſaid to have been viſible within the memory of ſome of the preſent generation; and veſtiges of a pitched road were recently found in digging near the ſpot. I walked to the place, but could not diſcern the ſmalleſt traces of the ancient bridge, and the ground in which the pitched road was diſcovered was planted with potatoes. I was, however, amply gratified for my diſappointment by the pleaſantneſs of the walk which leads by the ſide of the river, the beauty of the hanging woods of Piercefield, and the pictureſque appearance of the caſtle.

Although there are no manufactures in Chepſtow, yet ſeveral are eſtabliſhed in the neighbouring vallies of Itton and Mounton, which afford means of ſubſiſtence to many of the inhabitants. Theſe vallies deſerve likewiſe to be viſited for their pictureſque beauty; they are watered by a lively ſtream, which is ſupplied from the ſprings that riſe in Wentwood, and turns one fulling mill, four corn mills, and ſix paper mills. The brook ſuddenly diſappears in the fields, and after a ſubterraneous paſſage of a mile, burſts forth at the foot of a hill near the Long Orchard, where it is diſtinguiſhed by the name of the Well Head. This ſtream, after flowing by the farm houſe and ſequeſtered church of Mounton, croſſes the high road between Chepſtow and the New Paſſage, and falls into the Severn at the Pill of St. Pierre.



R.t Rich.d Hoare Del.t

J. Carter. Sculp.t

WESTERN ENTRANCE of CHEPSTOW CHURCH

CHAPTER 38.

Caſtle of Chepſtow or Striguil.—Deſcription.—Hiſtory and Proprietors.

THE town of Chepſtow was once fortified, and the walls *, ſtrengthened with round towers or baſtions at regular intervals, ſtretch from the bank of the river below the bridge to the works of the caſtle, at one period the largeſt and moſt important fortreſs in theſe parts.

Some fanciful antiquaries have attributed the conſtruction of the caſtle to Julius Cæſar, without conſidering that he was never in theſe parts, and there is no other evidence in ſupport of this opinion, but a few Roman bricks which are viſible in the walls of the chapel. It is however not improbable that the Romans, who afterwards had ſeveral ſtations in the vicinity, did not neglect a ſite which commanded the navigation of the Wy, afforded the only paſſage of the river for ſeveral miles, and formed a natural communication with their ſtations in the country of the Silures.

After repeated enquiries, I could not learn that any Roman antiquities had ever been diſcovered at Chepſtow, or in the vicinity; the neighbourhood indeed abounds with numerous ancient encampments, ſome of which may have been originally occupied by the Romans, and altered by ſucceeding nations †.

The

* "The towne of Chepſtow," ſays Leland, "hath been very ſtrongly walled, as yet welle doth appere. The walles began at the great bridge over the Wy, and ſo cam to the caſtel, the which yet ſtandeth fayr and ſtrong, not far from the ruin of the bridge. A great lykelyhood ys, that when Carguent began to decay, then began Chepſtow to flouriſh. For yt ſtandeth far better, as upon Wy there ebbing and flowing by the Rage coming out of Severn. So that to Chepſtow may cum greate ſheppes." Itin. vol. v. fol. 5.

† Theſe encampments are; two overhanging the Wy in Piercefield grounds; one near Hardwick, on the precipitous cliff of the Wy; one on the eminence called

The poſition of Chepſtow was too advantageous to eſcape the notice of the Saxons.*; and the name, which was probably derived from Cheapian ſtowe, ſignifying a place of traffic, ſeems to imply that they had formed a ſettlement at this port; it was probably occupied by Harold †, when he built a palace at Portſcwit, and over-ran this part of Monmouthſhire.

The caſtle ſeems to have borne different appellations; it is ſaid to have been called by the Britons Caſtell Gwent or Caſgwent ‡, by the Saxons Cheapſtowe, and by the Normans was principally diſtinguiſhed by the appellations of Eſtrighoiel, or Striguil; it is however uncertain whether this denomination is anterior to Chepſtow; but from a very early period the names of Chepſtow and Striguil appear to have been ſynonimous. A general opinion, as I have already obſerved §, prevails, that the name of Striguil was derived from the caſtellated manſion on the borders of Wentwood, which was built by Richard de Clare earl of Pembroke, and is ſtill called the caſtle of Striguil. From this place, it is ſaid, he aſſumed the title of earl of Striguil, and transferred it to Chepſtow, of which he was alſo the proprietor. But this aſſertion is wholly unfounded; for the caſtle of Chepſtow is diſtinguiſhed in Domeſday Book by the appellation of Caſtellum de Eſtrighoiel ||, and is ſtyled in ancient deeds and charters Striogul, Strigoil, Striguil, Strigul or Strighil, and in Latin Strigulia.

It

called the Gaer hill, above Piercefield; and one at Portcaſſeg, above Tintern.

Plans of theſe different encampments are engraved from ſurveys by Mr. Morrice.

* Near Chepſtow in Gloceſterſhire is a dike or rampart of earth, ſtretching, as I am informed by Mr. Jennings, from the Severn a mile and a half above Beachley ferry, towards the Wy, and interſected by the preſent high road leading from Chepſtow to Beachley, erroneouſly ſuppoſed by ſome perſons to be part of Offa's dike, but is nothing more than the remains of an entrenchment thrown up to fortify the peninſula of Beachley during the civil wars of the laſt century. See Ruſhworth, vol. 5. paſſim.

† Leland Syllab. Dict. Antiq. vol. ix. p. 37. "Conjectura eſt urbem captam, direptam, incenſam, "denique fuiſſe; quo tempore Heraldus."

‡ Leland, ibid. Camden. Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, p. 52.

§ p. 36.

|| "Caſtellum de Eſtrighoiel fecit Wilhelmus Comes "et ejus tempore reddebat xl ſolidos tantum de "navibus in ſilva euntibus. Et medietatem habebat "Rad: de Limeſi; modo habet rex inde xii. lib. "Tempore vero Rogerii Comitis filii ejus reddit "ipſa villa, xvi. lib."

Domeſday Book, art. Gloceſterſhire.

It is alſo far more probable that the caſtellated manſion ſhould be called Striguil, becauſe it was built and inhabited by the earls of Striguil or Chepſtow, than that this large, ancient, and important fortreſs ſhould derive its appellation from that inſignificant edifice.

The caſtle is ſituated on the brow of a precipice, overhanging the right bank of the Wy; the northern ſide is advanced cloſe to the edge, and conſtructed in ſuch a manner as to appear a part of the cliff; the ſame ivy which overſpreads the walls, twines and cluſters round the huge fragments, and down the perpendicular ſide of the rock. The remaining parts of the caſtle were defended by a moat, and conſiſt of maſſive walls, flanked with lofty towers.

The area occupies a large tract of ground, and is divided into four courts. The grand entrance to the eaſt is a circular arch between two round towers, formerly ſtrengthened by a portcullis, and exhibits a venerable ſpecimen of Norman architecture; it leads into the firſt court, which contains the ſhells of the grand hall, kitchens, and numerous apartments of conſiderable ſize, ſtill retaining veſtiges of baronial ſplendor*. A few of theſe rooms, which are leſs dilapidated than the reſt, are tenanted by the family to whom the caſtle was leaſed.

At

It is plain, from the mention of ſhips and of a town, that the place here alluded to, could not be the caſtellated manſion on the borders of Wentwood, which is ſeated at a conſiderable diſtance from any navigable river. Atkyns, in his hiſtory of Gloceſterſhire, p. 45, ſuppoſes this Caſtellum de Eſtrighoiel to be the caſtle of Eaſt bridge hotel in Gloceſter, and Rudder, p. 89, miſcalls it Esbrighoiel, and conſiders it as the caſtle of Gloceſter. The illuſtrator of Domeſday Book, miſled by theſe authorities, makes Estrighoiel and Esbrighoiel two places, calls them Chepſtow and Gloceſter, and interprets Strigul or Strigoil likewiſe to mean Gloceſter.

It is evident, however, from the early hiſtorians, as well as from ancient deeds and charters, that Striguil and Chepſtow ſignify the ſame place, which Tanner has ſufficiently proved in the note quoted in the laſt chapter. See alſo Dugdale's Baronage paſſim, Leland, vol. vi. fol. 22. vol. ix. p. 36.

An old deed quoted in the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, appendix, p. 119, calls Roger Bigod duke of Norfolk, lord of Chepſtow, alias Strugle, in right of his wife.

Giraldus frequently mentions "Strigulienſe Caſtrum," and "Ricardus Strongbow, Comes Strigulię," which his tranſlators, Hollingſhed and Hooker, interpret Chepſtow, and earl of Chepſtow.

Conqueſt of Ireland, chap. 2.

* A few tiles, ornamented with birds and flowers, with which the halls and galleries were paved, have been preſerved by affixing them to the walls of the firſt court. Not leſs than twenty-four ancient chimnies ſtill remain; the principal one of the inhabited part is handſomely decorated on the outſide, and the inſide is glazed, which prevents the accumulation of the ſoot, and it was never ſwept during the memory of Mrs. Williams, which muſt have been near eighty years.

At the ſouth eaſtern angle of this court is a round tower, now called Harry Marten's Tower *, which was the keep or citadel; the inſide front, which has a gothic entrance with hanging arches, and ſquare windows, is poſterior to the original ſtructure; the outſide is maſſive, appears in its ancient ſtate, and bears ſtriking marks of its Norman origin.

On the weſtern ſide of this court, near a round tower called the old kitchen, a gate opens into the ſecond court, now a garden, at the extremity of which another gateway leads into the third court, and to a neat and elegant building uſually called the chapel. The walls of this edifice are partly formed with hewn ſtone and partly with rubble, which is covered with a hard cement of pebbles and mortar. Some Roman bricks interſperſed in the weſtern and ſouthern ſides, have induced antiquaries to ſuppoſe it of Roman workmanſhip, and to diſtinguiſh it by the name of the Roman wall; but theſe bricks are too few in number to ſupport this opinion, and the whole building appears to conſiſt of heterogeneous materials, collected from the remains of dilapidated ſtructures.

The inſide is a grand area ninety feet in length, and thirty in breadth; the roof is fallen, and the remaining walls are not leſs than forty feet high. It is uſually ſuppoſed to have formed one magnificent room; but a range of apertures for beams in the ſide walls, about thirteen feet from the ground, ſeem to prove that it was divided into an upper and lower apartment, unleſs they were intended to ſupport a gallery.

At the height of eighteen feet appears a row of rounded arches, each nearly ten feet high and eight broad, ſuppoſed to have been niches, containing either ſtatues of the twelve apoſtles, or ſeats for the twelve knights of Glamorgan, when they paid their firſt homage to Robert Fitzhamon, for the lands which they conquered under his banners. The number of theſe ſuppoſed niches however does not juſtify this conjecture; for I counted no leſs than fifteen, and they appear to have been nothing more than arches, formed for the purpoſe of lightening the walls, which were unprovided with buttreſſes †. All theſe except two

* See the next chapter. † One of theſe which is ſtill open gradually narrows, and probably ended in a chink or oeillet.

CHEPSTOW CASTLE

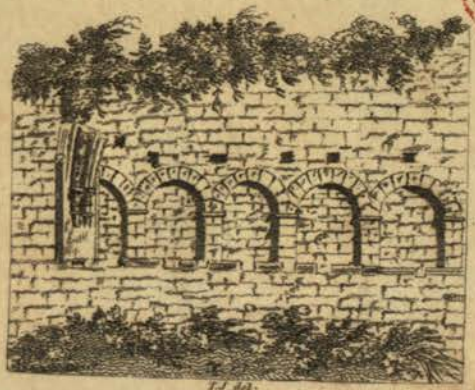
T.J. del.
Fig.1.

Fig.3.

T.J del.
North Wall of the Chapel

Harding sc

Fig.2.



T.J del.
South Wall

two are filled up, and appear to have been ſtuccoed; two of them are almoſt covered with part of the gothic arch that ſupported the roof.

The preſent entrance at the north probably led to a vaulted chamber beneath, but the grand entrance was by a flight of ſteps, ſtill viſible on the outſide of the eaſtern wall, through a ſemi-circular arched doorway *, now cloſed, in the upper part of which appear a Roman brick and two ſtones, ornamented with Saxon mouldings, plainly taken from the remains of more ancient ſtructures. Within this entrance, a ſtaircaſe in the wall aſcends to a door, on a level with the range of arches which opened into the upper chamber or gallery, and from thence to the battlements.

The original character of this building is Saxon or Norman, yet the decorations are gothic; the windows are moſtly in the ornamented ſtyle of that ſpecies of architecture, and the remains of an elegant arch, enriched with foliage and trigliphs, which ſupported the roof, ſpring from the walls †. Theſe veſtiges of gothic ſplendor, prove conſiderable alterations in the building poſterior to its original conſtruction.

At the ſouth-weſtern angle of the third court is a ſtaircaſe aſcending to the battlements and towers; this court is likewiſe a garden, and formerly communicated by a draw-bridge with the fourth or laſt court, which now can only be entered by creeping through a ſally port in the ſouth wall. The weſtern entrance of the caſtle was ſtrengthened with three portculliſes and a draw-bridge, leading into a field ſtill called the Caſtle Ditch, which is encloſed by the wall of the town; and beyond is another meadow, denominated the Caſtle Garden.

From a general view of theſe remains, the grand character of the caſtle appears to be Norman; the ſhell was conſtructed on one plan, and at the ſame æra; but alterations and additions were made by the different proprietors. The range of buildings on the northern ſide of the firſt court, are wholly conſtructed in the ornamented gothic ſtyle of architecture, and are evidently more modern than the reſt of the caſtle.

Soon

* See fig. 1, in the plan of Chepſtow caſtle. † See ſketch of part of the north and ſouth wall, on the ſame plate, fig. 2. and 3.

Soon after the conqueſt this part of Monmouthſhire, then included in the county of Gloceſter, came into the poſſeſſion of the Normans; and it appears from Domeſday Book, that Wilhelmus Comes, who is called by Dugdale and Camden, William Fitz Oſborn, earl of Hereford, built the caſtle of Eſtrighoiel* or Chepſtow. He was lord of Breteuil in Normandy, nearly related to the conqueror, and a principal adviſer of the invaſion, in which he held high command, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the battle of Haſtings. For theſe ſervices he was rewarded with ample poſſeſſions, and created juſticiary for the north of England, and joint marſhal with Roger de Montgomery. He was killed in 1070, in an expedition againſt Robert the Friſon.

He left three ſons; the eldeſt, William, inherited his eſtates in Normandy; the ſecond, Ralph, was a monk; and the third, Roger de Britolio, ſucceeded to the earldom of Hereford, and obtained this caſtle amongſt his other poſſeſſions in England. But ſoon afterwards, having rebelled againſt the king, he was defeated, deprived of his eſtates, and condemned to perpetual impriſonment.

The following anecdote, relating to his conduct in confinement, is given by Dugdale: "Though he frequently uſed many ſcornful and contumelious expreſſions towards the king, yet he was pleaſed at the celebration of the feaſt of Eaſter in a ſolemn manner, (as was then uſual) to ſend to this earl Roger, at that time in priſon, his royal robes, who ſo diſdained the favour, that he forthwith cauſed a great fire to be made, and the mantle, the inner ſurcoat of ſilk, and the upper garment, lined with precious furs, to be ſuddenly burnt. Which being made known to the king, he became not a little diſpleaſed, and ſaid, "*Certainly he is a very proud man who hath thus abuſed me; but, by the brightneſs of God, he ſhall never come out of priſon ſo long as I live.*" Which expreſſion was fulfilled to the utmoſt, for he never was releaſed during that king's life, nor after, but died in priſon."

His eſtates being forfeited, the caſtle was transferred to the great family of Clare †, for in the reign of Henry the firſt, we find it in the poſſeſſion of Gilbert, ſurnamed

* Domeſday Book. See note to p. 366.

† They bore this name from an ancient town in Suffolk, granted by the conqueror to their anceſtor Richard de Tonnebrige.

The account of the early proprietors of this caſtle, and the pedigree of the Clare family, is extremely obſcure. Dugdale has preſerved in his Monaſticon two ancient deeds concerning the genealogy of the Clares, founders

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

WEST VIEW OF CHEPSTOW CASTLE.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

ENTRANCE TO CHEPSTOW CASTLE.

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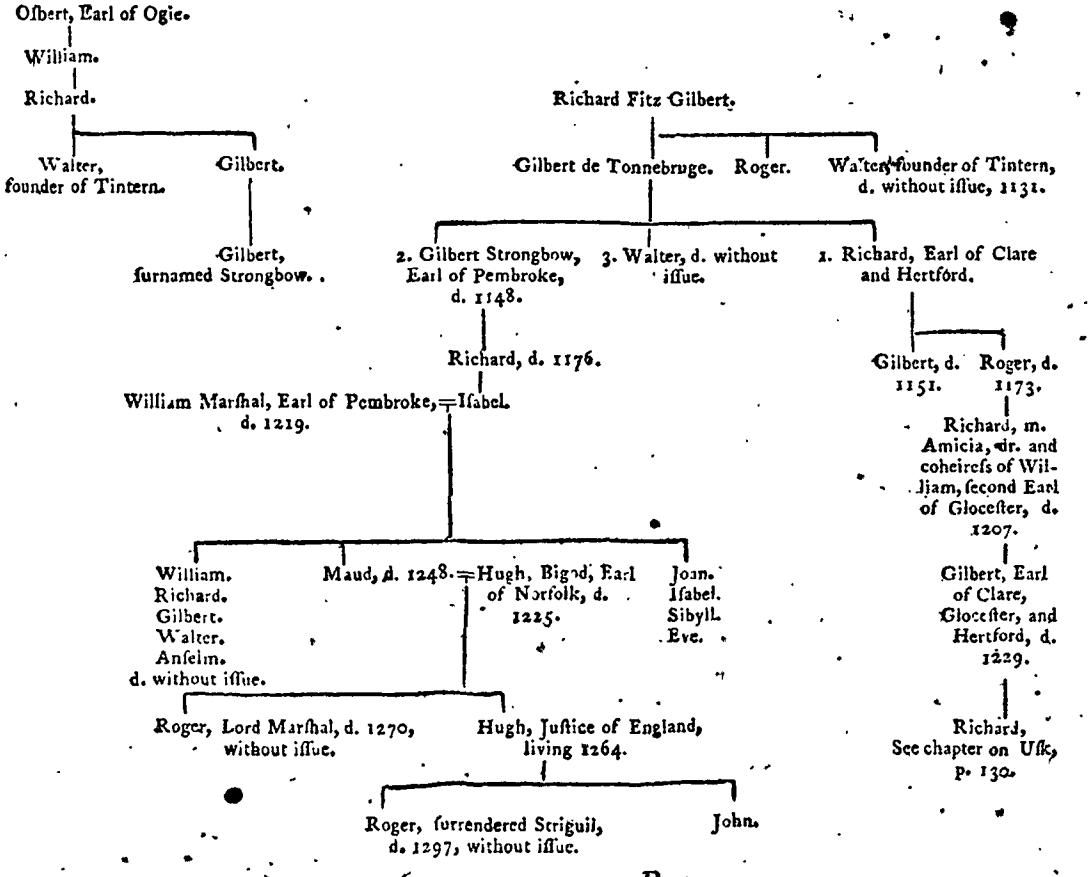
ſurnamed Strongbow, brother of Richard earl of Clare, who, according to Dugdale, poſſeſſed Netherwent with the whole dominion of Striguil. At the coronation of Henry the ſecond he executed the office of marſhal of England, was created earl of Pembroke, and as proprietor of this caſtle, is often ſtyled earl of Striguil.

Gilbert

founders of Tintern abbey, which are contrary to each other: according to one, William Fitz Oſborn was himſelf their great anceſtor; but, according to the other, Richard Fitz Gilbert. In his Baronage, art. Clare, he has followed the latter pedigree; he ſeems alſo to have confounded Walter, the founder of Tintern abbey, with his nephew. Dugdale, Monaſticon, vol. 1. p. 724. Baronage, art. Clare, and earls of Hereford. According to Leland, likewiſe, William Fitz Oſbert was the anceſtor of the Clares; but Gilbert Strongbow was the ſon of Walter. Itin. vol. vi. fol. 23.

PEDIGREE OF THE CLARE FAMILY.



Gilbert dying in 1148, was ſucceeded in his earldom of Pembroke and office of marſhal of England by his ſon Richard de Clare, alſo ſurnamed Strongbow, and ſtyled earl of Striguil.

Ireland was then under the dominion of five ſovereigns, of whom Dermot Macnagh, king of Leinſter, and Roderic, ſurnamed the great, king of Connaught, were the moſt conſiderable. Diſputes ariſing between theſe two kings, Dermot was dethroned, and implored the protection of Henry the ſecond, who was then in Aquitain engaged in a war with France. Henry, though anxious to interfere in the affairs of Ireland, could not afford immediate ſuccour to the fugitive king, but permitted him to apply to the Engliſh barons. Dermot among others gained Richard Strongbow, by promiſing him his daughter in marriage, with the ſucceſſion to the crown of Leinſter. In 1171, Richard landed at Waterford with 1,200 men, eſpouſed the princeſs, and, his father-in-law dying, conquered and took poſſeſſion of Leinſter, with Dublin the capital.

This brilliant ſucceſs gave umbrage to Henry the ſecond; he ſeiſed the earl's property in Normandy, England, and Wales, and levying a conſiderable army, paſſed over to Ireland with a reſolution to annex Leinſter to the crown of England; but was appeaſed by the ceſſion of Waterford and Dublin, and all the caſtles received from Dermot. Accordingly the earl was reſtored to his eſtates, permitted to enjoy his wife's inheritance, and conſtituted conſtable of Ireland.

Giraldus Cambrenſis thus delineates the character of Richard Strongbow: "This earle was ſomewhat ruddie and of ſanguine complexion and freckle face, "his eyes greie, his face feminine, his voice ſmall, and his necke little, but ſome-"what of a high ſtature: he was verie liberall, courteous, and gentle; what he "could not compaſſe or bring to paſſe in deed, he would win by good words "and gentle ſpeeches. In time of peace he was more readie to yeeld and obeie "than to rule and beare ſwaie. Out of the campe he was more like to a ſouldier "companion than a captaine or ruler; but in the campe and in the warres he "carried with him the ſtate and countenance of a valiant captaine. Of himſelfe "he would not adventure anie thing; but being adviſed and ſet on, he refuſed "no attempts; for of himſelfe he would not raſhlie adventure or preſumptuouſlie

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne. sculp.t

SOUTH VIEW OF CHEPSTOW CASTLE.

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" take anie thing in hand. In the fight and battell he was a moſt aſſured token " and ſigne to the whole companie, either to ſtand valiantlie to the fight, or for " policie to retire. In all chances of warre he was ſtill one and the ſame manner of " man, being neither diſmaied with adverſitie nor puffed up with proſperitie *."

Richard Strongbow dying in 1176, without iſſue male, Iſabella his daughter and heireſs, conveyed the caſtle town and manor of Striguil, with all his other poſſeſſions, to her huſband, William, marſhal of England, who became lord protector of the kingdom on the acceſſion of Henry the third: in right of his wife he was created earl of Pembroke and Eſtrigol †; and according to Dugdale, " paid £.65. 10s. for ſeventy-five knights' fees and a half, belonging to the honour of Strigul ‡."

This illuſtrious peer was the greateſt warrior in a period of warfare, and the moſt loyal ſubject in an age of rebellion: by the united influence of wiſdom and valour, he ſupported the tottering crown of king John, broke the confederacy of the barons, who had ſworn allegiance to Lewis dauphin of France, drove away the foreign uſurper, fixed Henry the third on the throne of his anceſtors, and gave peace to his diſtracted country. He died in 1219, and was buried in the new temple, with this epitaph on his monument:

" Sum qui Saturnum ſibi ſenſit Hibernia, ſolem
" Anglia; Mercurium Normania; Gallia Martem."

" For he had been," as Matthew Paris obſerves, " a ſevere tamer of the Iriſh, a great " favourer of the Engliſh, atchieved much in Normandy, and was an invincible " ſoldier in France §." On the demiſe of his five ſons, William, Richard, Gilbert, Walter, and Anſelm, without iſſue, his vaſt inheritance was divided among his five daughters, and Hugh Bigod earl of Norfolk, in virtue of his marriage with Maud, the eldeſt, received the caſtle and borough of Strugoil. He died in 1225, and after frequent ſolicitation his widow obtained the office and honour of marſhal, in virtue of her deſcent: Henry the third, himſelf, " ſolemnly gave the marſhal's rod into her hands, which ſhe thereupon delivered unto earl Roger, her ſon

* The Conqueſt of Ireland, tranſlated by Hollingſhed, chap. 28.

† Maddox's Hiſtory of the Exchequer, p. 20.

‡ Baronage, vol. 1. p. 601.

§ Ibid. p. 602.

ſon and heir, whoſe homage the king received for the ſame." "Maud afterwards married John de Warren earl of Surrey, and departing this life in 1248, was buried in the abbey of Tinterne, her four ſons, Roger, Hugh, Ralph, and John, carrying her body into the choir *."

Her grandſon Roger, diſſatisfied with his brother John, ſurrendered all his eſtates and honours to king Edward the firſt, who re-granted them to him and to his iſſue by Alice his wife.

On his death without iſſue, Edward the ſecond, in virtue of the ſurrender, granted to his brother Thomas Plantagenet, called de Brotherton †, the earldom of Norfolk, and all the eſtates poſſeſſed by the Bigods, among which were the caſtle and town of Chepſtow. By his firſt wife Alice, daughter of ſir Roger Hales of Harwich, knight, he left two daughters and coheirs, Margaret, firſt married to John lord Segrave, and ſecondly to ſir Walter Manney, knight of the garter, and Alice, to ſir Edward de Montacute.

The caſtle and manor of Striguil, with the town of Chepſtow, were aſſigned to his widow, Mary, daughter of William lord Roos, as part of her dowry, and on her death in 1362, were given in purparty to Margaret, then wife of ſir Walter Manney, who was afterwards created ducheſs of Norfolk.

Margaret

* Dugdale, vol. 1. p. 134.

† THOMAS DE BROTHERTON, d. 1338.

- John de Segrave, d. 1353. = Margaret, cr. ducheſs of Norfolk, d. 1398. = Sir Walter Manney, Kt. d. 1373.
- Alice, m. Edward de Montacute.
- John de Mowbray = Eliſabeth
- k. 1368.
- Anne = John de Haſtings, Earl of Pembroke, and Baron of Bergavenny, d. 1375.
- John Earl of Nottingham, d. 1382.
- Thomas Duke of Norfolk, d. 1399.
- John, d. 1390, without iſſue.
- Thomas, bch. 1405.
- John, d. 1434, ſcif. of Strigoil.
- Iſabel, m. 1. Henry Ferrers, 2. Sir James Berkley, d. 1452.
- Margaret, m. Sir Robert Howard.
- John, Earl of Warren and Surry, and Duke of Norfolk, d. 1475.
- Anne, contr. to Richard Duke of York.

Margaret had two daughters, Eliſabeth, by lord Segrave, who eſpouſed John de Mowbray, and Anne, by ſir Walter Manney, wife of ſir John de Haſtings, earl of Pembroke and baron of Abergavenny, who obtained the caſtle of Strigul, with the town of Chepſtow. * They afterwards, either on his deceaſe, or on the death of his ſon John, reverted to Margaret, and came into the poſſeſſion of her grandſon, Thomas ſon of John de Mowbray. He was created, in right of his grandmother, earl marſhal of England, duke of Norfolk, and after receiving great honours and lucrative employments from Richard the ſecond, forfeited the favour of his capricious ſovereign, was baniſhed, and died in exile in 1399.

His eldeſt ſon Thomas was beheaded in 1405, and his ſecond ſon John, created in his father's life time earl of Warren and Surrey, became alſo duke of Norfolk, and earl marſhal of England; he died in 1434, "ſeiſed of the caſtle manor and borough of Strogoil, which were aſſigned to his wife Catherine, daughter of Ralph Neville earl of Weſtmoreland, as part of her dowry."

His ſon John ſucceeded to his honours and eſtates, and appears to have ſold the caſtle manor and lordſhip of Chepſtow to William Herbert * earl of Pembroke, who poſſeſſed them at the time of his death †. They devolved on his ſon William, afterwards created earl of Huntingdon, and were conveyed by his daughter and heireſs Eliſabeth, to her huſband ſir Charles Somerſet, who was immediately ſummoned to parliament, jure uxoris, by the title of lord Herbert of Raglan, Chepſtow, and Gower, and afterwards raiſed to the earldom of Worceſter ‡.

This fortreſs was conſidered as very important to both parties, during the civil wars

* "To Chepſtowe yet, my pen agayne muſt paſſe,
"Where Strongbow once (an earle of rare renowne)
"A long time ſince, the lord and maiſter was
"(In princely ſort) of caſtle and of towne.
"Then after that, to Mowbray it befell,
"Of Norfolke duke, a worthie knowne full well;
"Who ſold the ſame to William Harbert knight,
"That was the earle of Pembrooke then by right."
Churchyard's Worthines of Wales, p. 7.

† As appears from the inquiſition taken after his death. See Dugdale's Baronage, vol 2, p. 257.

‡ See Dugdale's Baronage, art. Clare, Mareſchal, Bigod, Brotherton, Segrave, Manney, Haſtings, Moubray, Herbert, and Somerſet: Edmonſon's Account of the Marſhals of England, Heraldry, vol. 1. Rapin.

wars of the laſt century; for the poſſeſſion of it gave authority to the king or parliament in theſe parts.

At firſt Chepſtow was garriſoned for the king, till in 1645, colonel Morgan, governor of Gloceſter, at the head of 300 horſe and 400 foot, and aſſiſted by the mountaineers, with little difficulty made himſelf maſter of the town, and in a few days compelled the governor, colonel Fitzmorris, to ſurrender the caſtle. But the caſtle was afterwards ſurpriſed by the loyaliſts, under Sir Nicholas Kemeys, who in the abſence of the governor, by means of a ſecret correſpondence, obtained poſſeſſion of the weſtern gate, and made the garriſon priſoners of war. On this event Cromwell marched againſt it in perſon, took poſſeſſion of the town, but aſſaulted the caſtle without ſucceſs, though garriſoned only by 160 men. He then left colonel Ewer, with a train of artillery, ſeven companies of foot, and four troops of horſe, to proſecute the ſiege. But the garriſon defended themſelves valiantly, until their proviſions were exhauſted, and even then refuſed to ſurrender under promiſe of quarter, hoping to eſcape by means of a boat, which they had provided for that purpoſe. A ſoldier of the parliamentary army, however, ſwam acroſs the river, with a knife between his teeth, cut the cable of the boat, and brought it away; the caſtle was at length forced, and Sir Nicholas Kemeys with 40 men ſlain in the aſſault. This event was conſidered by the parliament ſo important, that the captain who brought the news was rewarded with fifty pounds, and a letter of thanks ſent to colonel Ewer and the officers and ſoldiers engaged in that ſervice*.

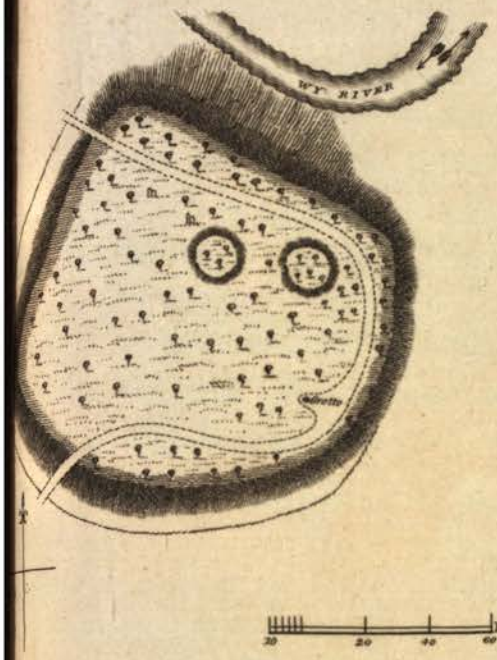
In 1645, the caſtle and park of Chepſtow, together with the chaſe of Wentwood, and ſeveral eſtates which belonged to the marquis of Worceſter and other loyaliſts, to the amount of £.2,500 a year, were confiſcated, and ſettled by parliament on Oliver Cromwell.

On the acceſſion of Charles the ſecond, the caſtle of Chepſtow was reſtored to the marquis of Worceſter, and has ſince continued in the poſſeſſion of his deſcendants.

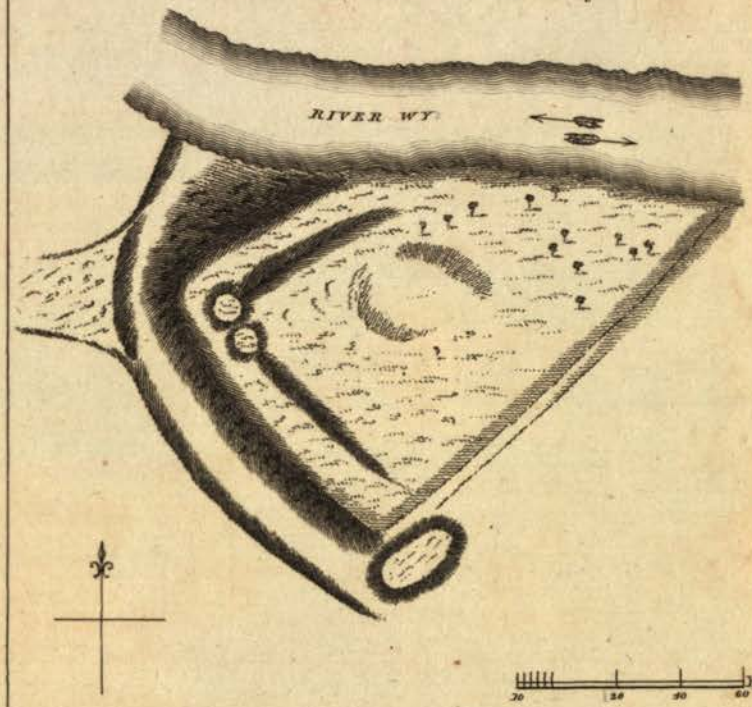
The caſtle and ſite belong to the duke of Beaufort, but were held on a leaſe

* Ruſhworth.

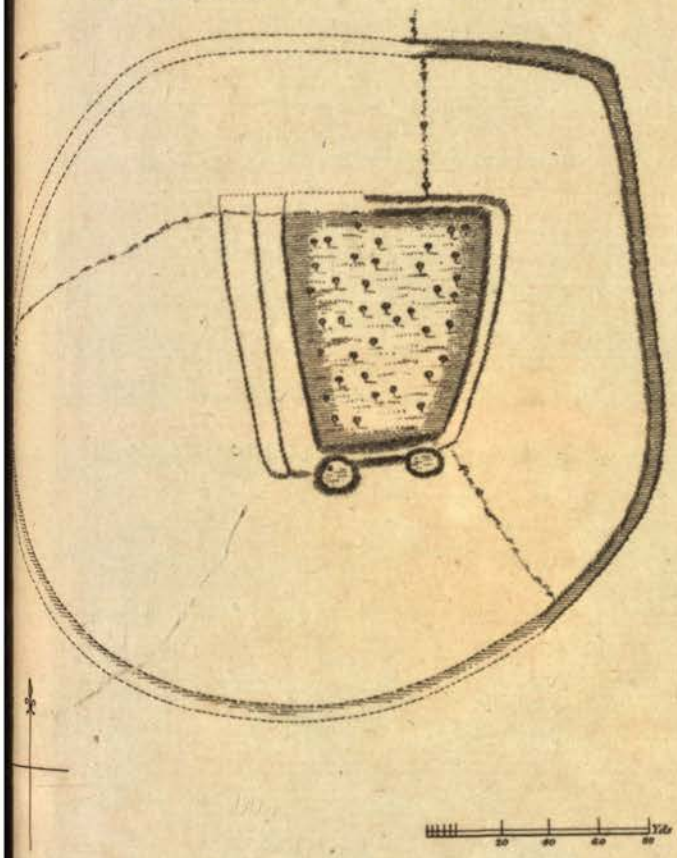
Encampment in Piercefield Ground



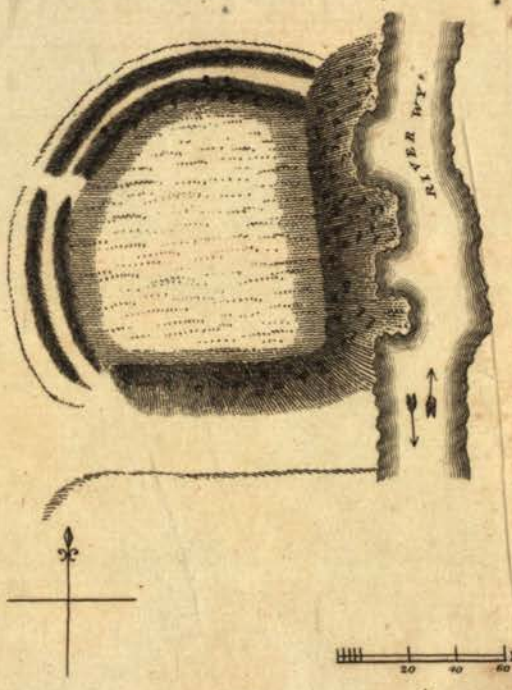
Encampment in Piercewood near Piercefield



Caer Hill Encampment near Piercefield



Encampment at Hardwick near Chepstow



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leaſe of lives which expired in 1799, on the death of Mrs. Williams, the late occupier, though by the kindneſs of the duke of Beaufort, her huſband ſtill retains poſſeſſion of the caſtle.

This lady, who was alive in my firſt expedition, and furniſhed me with much information, was eighty-five years of age. Her family by the female line afforded rare inſtances of longevity; her mother, Mrs. Hutton, lived to the age of 101, her grandmother reached 103, and her great grandmother, Mrs. Charles, who died aged 106, performed the office of midwife to lady Gage, when ſhe had paſſed her hundredth year.

CHAPTER 39.

Harry Marten's Tower.—Apartment in which he was confined.—Anecdotes of his Life.

THE tower at the ſouth-eaſtern extremity of the caſtle is remarkable as the place where Henry, uſually called Harry, Marten, one of the regicides, was confined.

Having previouſly peruſed a doleful deſcription * of the dungeon, in which he was immured, and which ſcarcely admitted a ſingle ray of light to alleviate the horrors of his ſolitary impriſonment, I was ſurpriſed to find a comfortable ſuite of rooms. The firſt ſtory contains an apartment which was occupied by himſelf and his wife, and above were lodgings for his domeſtics. The chamber in which he uſually lived is not leſs than thirty-ſix feet in length, twenty-three in breadth, and of proportionate height; it was provided with two fire-places, and three windows, two of which appear to be the original apertures, and the third was probably enlarged for his convenience.

Henry Marten was ſon of Sir Henry Marten †, doctor of civil laws, a judge of

* "Inſcription for the apartment in Chepſtow caſtle, where Henry Marten the regicide, was impriſoned for thirty years."

"For *thirty* years *ſecluded* from mankind,
"Here Marten *linger'd*. Often have theſe walls
"Echoed his footſteps, as with even tread
"He pac'd around his *priſon*. Not to him
"Did nature's fair varieties exiſt
"He *never* ſaw the ſun's delightful beams;
"*Save when thro' yon high bars he pour'd a ſad*
"*And broken ſplendour* ——." Southey's Poems.

† See an account of him, with his portrait, in the Britiſh Cabinet, publiſhed by E. Harding.

His father Sir Henry Marten died on the 26th of September 1641, and was buried at Longworth church in Berkſhire, the place of his reſidence, where a ſepulchral ſtone was erected to his memory by his daughter-in-law Mrs. Margaret Marten. His mother Eliſabeth died in 1618, aged 44, and was buried in the ſame church, leaving two ſons, Henry and George, and three daughters, Eliſabeth, Jane, and Maria. Henry Marten her ſon, wrote her epitaph in Latin, and added an indifferent elegy in Engliſh verſe, which he compoſed at ſixteen. Aſhmole's Berkſhire.

"Stay, paſſenger, and, if thou art not ſtone,
"Weep with Eurania, whoſe nymph is gone;
"A nymph whome thou would'ſt ſweare had been
"the ſame,
"Divine Eurania, but for her name;
"And yet her name her nature well expreſt,
"That in God's temple built her careful neſt,
"Thither to fly, that ſhee the eaſier may,
"Her young ones teach, herſelf (loe) leads the way."

T. Jennings del.

OUTSIDE VIEW OF H.MARTEN'S TOWER.

Published March 1.1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand.

W.B.direx.

R.R.del.

HARRY MARTEN'S TOWER, CHEPSTOW.

Published March 1. 1800 by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

W.B.direx.

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of the admiralty, dean of the arches, and judge of the prerogative court for trade, who raiſed himſelf to honour and fortune by his induſtry and talents; and unlike his ſon attempted to moderate the miſunderſtanding between Charles the firſt and his parliament.

Henry the ſon was born at Oxford in 1602, and after receiving the rudiments of his education, in that town, was admitted a gentleman commoner of Univerſity college at the age of fifteen. He took his bachelor's degree in 1619, and repaired to London to commence the ſtudy of the law. He poſſeſſed good talents, which he greatly improved by claſſical attainments; his temper, however, was volatile and capricious, and he was too much inclined to pleaſure, to pay due attention to his intended profeſſion. But he was relieved from the neceſſity of application by eſpouſing a rich widow, whom he afterwards treated with great indifference and neglect.

The diſſoluteneſs of his life and immorality of his conduct led Marten to reject that pure religion which enjoins the controul of the paſſions. Hence he united with Harrington, Sydney, Wildman, Nevill, and others, who ſuppoſed themſelves more enlightened than the reſt of mankind, and denied the truth of revelation. The ſame licentiouſneſs of opinion, which delivered him from the reſtraints of religion, influenced his ſentiments on politics: warmed with the glowing images of Greek and Roman claſſics, he panted for a perfect commonwealth, a republic of repreſentatives choſen by the people, and wholly governed by public opinion, which admitted no diſtinction, but ſuperiority of genius, talents or ſcience.

Imbued with theſe principles he commenced his political career in 1640, and joined the party adverſe to the court. In the two laſt parliaments of Charles the firſt he repreſented Berkſhire, in which county he had conſiderable eſtates, and made a conſpicuous figure in the long parliament. He entered with warmth into the cabals of the republican party, and was among the foremoſt to diſplay his anti-monarchical principles, of which lord Clarendon, in the hiſtory of his own life, gives a ſtriking inſtance: "Mr. Hyde, walking between the parliament houſe and Weſtminſter, in the church yard met with Harry Martin, with whom

he lived very familiarly; and ſpeaking together about the proceedings of the houſes, Martin told him, that he would undo himſelf by his adhering to the court; to which he replied, that he had no relation to the court, and was only concerned to maintain the government and preſerve the law: and then told him that he could not conceive what he propoſed to himſelf; for he did not think him to be of the opinion or nature with thoſe men who governed the houſe; and aſked him what he thought of ſuch and ſuch men; and he very frankly anſwered, that he thought them knaves; and that when they had done as much as they intended to do, they ſhould be uſed as they had uſed others. The other preſſed him to ſay what he deſired; to which, after a little pauſe, he very roundly anſwered, *I do not think one man wiſe enough to govern us all:* which was the firſt word he ever heard any man ſpeak to that purpoſe; and would, without doubt, if it had been then communicated, or attempted, been the moſt abhorred by the whole nation, of any deſign that could be mentioned; and yet it appears it had even ſo early entered into the hearts of ſome deſperate perſons; that gentleman being at that time poſſeſſed of a very great fortune, and having great credit in his country *."

When the temper of the times enabled him to diſcloſe his ſentiments with leſs reſtraint, Marten added diſdain and inſult to hatred of royalty. At Longworth he tore in pieces, with his own hands, the king's commiſſion of array; "Being authorized by parliament, about 1642," to uſe the expreſſions of Anthony Wood, "he forced open a great iron cheſt, within the college of Weſtminſter, and thence took out the crown, robes, ſword, and ſceptre belonging anciently to king Edward the Confeſſor, and uſed by all our kings at their inaugurations; and with a ſcorn, greater than his luſts and the reſt of his vices, he openly declared that there ſhould be no further uſe of theſe toyes and trifles, &c. and in the jollity of that humour he inveſted George Wither (an old puritan ſatyriſt) in the royal habiliments; who being crowned and royally arrayed (as well right became him) did firſt march about the room, with a ſtately garb, and afterwards with a thouſand apiſh and ridiculous actions expoſed thoſe ſacred ornaments to contempt and laughter †."

He

* Life of Clarendon, vol. i. p. 81. † Wood's Athen. Oxon. vol. ii. p. 660.

Harding sc

HENRY MARTIN

From an original Picture in the poſſeſſion of Chas. Lewis Esq.

Pubd. 1 May 1800. by Cadell & Davies Strand

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He afterwards ſpoke warmly in defence of a puritanical clergyman, named Saltmarſh; who in a publication, among other virulent expreſſions, declared that if the king would not grant the demands of the people, he and the royal line ſhould be rooted out, and the crown conferred on ſome other perſon. This obnoxious book being laid before the houſe, and a propoſal made to puniſh the author, Marten ſaid, he ſaw no reaſon to condemn Mr. Saltmarſh, for it was better that one family ſhould be deſtroyed than many; being required to explain his meaning, he replied, "the king and his children." Theſe violent expreſſions rouſing the indignation of the houſe, he was expelled and ſent to the Tower; but in a few months the republican ſpirit gained ſo much ground, that his friends without difficulty obtained the reverſal of his expulſion.

He was at this period held in high eſtimation by his party; his averſion to monarchy, his freedom in declaring his republican ſentiments, and his recent ſufferings in the cauſe of democracy, increaſed his popularity. His convivial manners and facetious diſcourſe, rendered him agreeable to perſons of all deſcriptions; he performed the moſt eſſential ſervice to the parliament by his eloquence, his writings, and his ſword, was ſo much favoured, that even the arreſt of one of his menial ſervants was highly reſented, and, as his biographer obſerves, "he was more inviolable than his ſovereign *."

When the parliament appointed a committee to receive contributions, and enliſt troops againſt the king, he warmly exerted himſelf in recommending this meaſure to the city of London, and concluded a virulent ſpeech, which he made on the occaſion, at the common hall, with theſe remarkable expreſſions; "either you muſt go forth all, and meet the enemy as vaſſals with ropes about your necks, or like men, with ſwords in your hands."

Marten diſplayed the ſame turbulent ſpirit in the country; in Berkſhire he forbad the people to ſtand bare at the ſeſſions, and do homage and fealty to their lords; "he gulled them," ſays Walker, "and gave them that which was not their due, to rob them of their due; their horſes, goods, and money, plundered from them, for ſervice of the ſtate, (forſooth) and beat them that defended their own; ſo that while he flattered them to be the ſupreme authority and lords paramount,

* Noble's Lives of the Regicides.

paramount, and the parliament to be their ſervants, he uſed them like ſlaves conquered by the parliament*."

Though a ſceptic he did not diſdain to uſe religion as a cloak to his ambitious views, and to promote his favourite commonwealth; he joined the independents, whoſe principles of government wholly coincided with his own, became one of the principal leaders, and gave direction and energy to their efforts. With them he canted and prayed, boaſted of receiving internal motions of the Holy Spirit; and, like Cromwell, contended that the ſaints alone were entitled to govern on earth.

He co-operated with Cromwell in overthrowing all eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhments, diſſolving the parliament, aboliſhing the monarchy, and bringing the king to the ſcaffold. For the purpoſe of carrying theſe deſigns into execution, it became neceſſary to encourage the *levellers*; Marten promoted this ſcheme with his uſual addreſs and activity, and particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf as their leader in the county of Leiceſter. In a little pamphlet, or more properly newſpaper †, publiſhed in 1648, the writer, a Leiceſterſhire gentleman of the name of Turvil, ſtates, "that by their ſtrange politick and ſubtle deluſion, they had wrought into the hearts of divers people to ingage with them, eſpecially among thoſe who are of a deſperate fortune and mean condition; the baſeſt and vileſt men reſorting to them." "They rob and plunder exceedingly whereſoever they come, ſaying, they will *levell* all ſorts of people, even from the higheſt to the loweſt, and that he that hath the moſt ſhall be equall to him that hath the leaſt."

Walker alſo mentions Marten as the great ſupporter of the levelling ſyſtem, "The chief things of note were, more complaints of Henry Martin, who now declares himſelf for a community of wealth, as well as of women, and proteſts againſt king, lords, gentry, lawyers, and clergy, nay againſt the parliament itſelf, in whoſe boſom this viper hath been foſtered, and againſt all magiſtrates; like a ſecond Wat Tyler, all pen and inkhorn men muſt down. His levelling doctrine is contained in a pamphlet, called "England's Troubler Troubled:" wherein all

* Walker's Hiſtory of Independency, part 2. p. 23.

† "Strange news from the Levellers, declaring their proceedings under the command of colonel Martin, in Leiceſterſhire and other parts adjacent, to the great terrour and amazement of all his majeſty's liege people."

all rich men whatſoever are declared enemies to the mean men of England, and (in effect) war denounced againſt them *."

In furtherance of the ſame plan he uſed his pen with no leſs effect than his ſword. He wrote numerous tracts †, ſuited to the politics of the times, and the genius of the populace, tending to throw odium on the regal office, and widen the breach between the king and parliament.

Thus aided by Marten and his adherents Cromwell matured his ſchemes of aggrandiſement, blockaded the houſe of commons, and excluded one hundred and ſixty members. On this occaſion Marten was extremely active, and his conduct is thus ludicrouſly deſcribed by Clement Walker: "The houſe being thoroughly purged, the next day in comes the Dr. O. Cromwell out of the country, bringing in under his protection that ſanctified member Henry Martin, who had ſpent much time in plundering the country, had often baffled the houſe, and diſobeyed many of their orders, ſufficient to have made an honeſt man a malignant liable to ſequeſtration. *But great is the privilege of the ſaints.* It fortuned that day the caſe of the ſecured members was reported to the houſe, which Harry interrupting, deſired them *to take into conſideration the deſerts of the lieutenant general*, which with all ſlaviſh diligence was preſently done ‡."

Marten and his party now exulted in their victory; they fondly hoped to govern Cromwell and the army, and were enraptured with the proſpect of moulding the government into that imaginary republic ſo long the object of their wiſhes. For this purpoſe they co-operated with Cromwell in voting the houſe of peers uſeleſs, and precipitating the trial and execution of Charles the firſt, in which the zeal of Marten was particularly conſpicuous.

Being preſent as colonel at a conſultation of the chief officers of the army, to ſecure

* Walker's Hiſtory of Independency, part 1. p. 136.

† Two of theſe tracts, printed in 1648, are preſerved from oblivion, and are entitled,

"The Independency of England endeavoured to be maintained, by Henry Marten, a Member of the Parliament there, againſt the Claim of the Scottiſh Commiſſioners, in their late Anſwer upon Bills and Propoſitions ſent to the King to the Iſle of Wight."

"The Parliament's Proceedings juſtified, in declining a Perſonall Treaty with the King, notwithſtanding the advice of the Scottiſh Commiſſioners to that purpoſe; by Henry Marten, eſq. a Member of the Houſe of Commons."

‡ Walker's Hiſtory of Independency, part 2. p. 34.

ſecure their advantages, he propoſed that they ſhould ſerve his majeſty as the Engliſh did his Scotch grandmother, by cutting off his head.

Marten alſo attended the council in the painted chamber; when the account was brought that the king had landed at ſir Robert Cotton's ſtairs at Whitehall, Cromwell ſtarted up, ran to the window, and ſaw the king coming up the garden. On returning he appeared embarraſſed, and ſaid to the board, "My maſters, he is come, and we are now doing that great work, that the whole nation will be full of, therefore I deſire you to let us reſolve what anſwer we ſhall give to the king when he comes before us, for the firſt queſtion he will aſk us will be, "By what authority and commiſſion do we try him?" to which none anſwered preſently; then after a little ſpace, Henry Marten roſe up, and ſaid, "In the name of the commons and parliament aſſembled, and all the good people of England;" this reply was accordingly adopted, when Charles, as had been conjectured, enquired by what authority he was tried *.

Marten was a member of the high court of juſtice, regularly attended the trial, was preſent when the ſentence was pronounced, and ſigned the warrant of death. On that ſolemn occaſion, his conduct proved his intimacy with Cromwell, and the unfeeling diſpoſition of both appears from an incident which tranſpired on his trial. Cromwell taking the pen in his hand to ſubſcribe his name, ſpattered with ink the face of Marten who ſat next him, and the pen being delivered to Marten, he practiſed the ſame frolic on Cromwell †.

The zeal diſplayed by Marten in the abolition of monarchy, the execution of the king, and the eſtabliſhment of a commonwealth, placed him in high eſtimation among the chiefs of the army and government; he was colonel of a regiment of horſe, governor of Reading, member of the committee of ſafety, and one of the council of ſtate. He ſhared in the plunder of the nation, and the pillage of the royaliſts; he was gratified with money under various pretences, received an aſſignment of £. 1,000 a year, out of the duke of Buckinghamſhire's eſtate at Emerſham, a preſent of £. 3,000, and his arrears to the amount of £. 25,000.

The

* Trials of the Regicides. † Ibid.

The conduct of Marten, and many other republicans, will assist in correcting the petulant and unfounded remark of the great Milton, that "the trappings of a monarchy would support a republic." He and many of those mock patriots, who inveighed with unceasing animosity against the peculation, oppression, and lavish grants of the crown, were guilty of greater oppression, peculation, and pillage, obtained more profuse grants from parliament, and increased the public expenditure in a tenfold proportion. So truly was it said by the lord chancellor Clarendon, "There was not a commonwealth in Europe, where every man that was worth one thousand pounds, did not pay more to the government, than a man of a thousand pounds a year ever did to the crown before the late troubles; and he was persuaded that the monster commonwealth cost this nation more in the years she was begot, born, and brought up, and in her funeral, than the monarchy had done these six hundred years *."

Marten however, and his republican associates, soon found that their visionary ideas of a perfect commonwealth could not be realised, and that by forwarding the encroachments of the army to destroy the presbyterians, they had created masters whom they could not controul; for notwithstanding their talents and address, they were duped by the superior art and activity of Cromwell, who separated himself from the republicans, and overturned in an instant the fabric of government which they had raised upon the ruins of the throne, and on the destruction of national liberty.

On the dissolution of the long parliament, which Marten ineffectually opposed, Cromwell retaliated on the republicans the insults which they had heaped on their unfortunate sovereign, and loaded them with the bitterest reproaches for their tyranny and robbery of the public. "In wrath taking sir Harry Vane junior by the cloak, he said thou art a juggling fellow; told Allen the goldsmith that he enriched himself by cozening the state, for which he should be called to account, and commanded his soldiers to turn them out of the house."

"Colonel

* Chandler's Debates, vol. 1. p. 36.

"Colonel Harriſon inſtantly dragged the ſpeaker from the chair; and Cromwell, as the members went out, pointing at Harry Marten, and Tom Chaloner, exclaimed, 'Is it fit that ſuch fellows as theſe ſhould ſit to govern? Men of vicious lives, the one a noted whoremaſter and the other a drunkard?' Nay, he boldly upbraided them all, with ſelling the cavaliers' eſtates by bundles, and ſaid they had kept no faith with them *."

Probably the rancour exhibited by Cromwell on this occaſion, was increaſed by Marten's rigid adherence to republican principles, which oppoſed his darling ambition of aſſuming the crown; for on the debate, whether there ſhould be a king or no king, Marten ſaid, "If they muſt have a king, he had rather have had the laſt than any gentleman in England; he found no fault in his perſon, but in his office †."

Neither the large ſums of money which Marten received from parliament, nor his own patrimony and his wife's eſtate, which together amounted to £.3,000 a year, were adequate to his inordinate expences. His profuſe ſtyle of living involved him in pecuniary diſtreſs, and his principal reſources were the ſalary of his offices and the pay of his regiment. But on the diſſolution of the long parliament he loſt theſe ſupplies, and his debts were ſo conſiderable, that he was arreſted and confined in the upper bench, where he continued unnoticed until the fall of the protectoral power.

The officers who formed the cabal of Wallingford houſe, and depoſed Richard Cromwell, having reſolved to reſtore the remnant of the long parliament, thirty-eight members of the rump aſſembled clandeſtinely in the painted chamber, and for the purpoſe of making up a houſe, ſummoned Whitlocke and Liſle from the court of chancery, and Marten and lord Monſon from priſon. This junto were no ſooner aſſembled, than fourteen of the ſecluded members repaired to the lobby, and demanded admittance, on the juſt principle, that if the long parliament was not diſſolved, they were equally entitled to ſeats. Their demand however

* Dugdale's View of the Troubles in England, p. 405. † Walker's Hiſtory of Independency, part 2. p. 150.

ever was rejected; the forty-two re-eſtabliſhed the commonwealth, and nominated a council of ſtate, conſiſting of twenty-one members, and ten who were not of the houſe.

In theſe and the ſubſequent tranſactions, Marten was never conſulted, and bore no conſpicuous part; he was not one of the council, and only aſſiſted in ſanctioning the unwarrantable acts of this ſelf-created government. This ſhadow of a parliament however, no ſooner ſhewed ſymptoms of returning ſpirit, and ſeemed inclined to act independently of the officers, than it was diſſolved, the military government re-eſtabliſhed, and the kingdom again threatened with increaſing anarchy, or increaſing deſpotiſm.

From this deplorable ſtate the nation was relieved by general Monk, who availing himſelf of the public ſentiments, was enabled, with a ſmall body of 8,000 men, to annihilate the military government, and re-eſtabliſh the monarchy.

At the reſtoration Marten ſurrendered on the proclamation, and was brought to trial at the Old Bailey as one of the regicides. After pleading a miſnomer *, both in the act of oblivion, and in the indictment, which was over-ruled, he declared himſelf not guilty, and made an able and ſpirited defence, in which he diſplayed great firmneſs of mind and acuteneſs of argument, though blended with much petulance and chicanery. He confeſſed the fact of attending the trial, and ſigning the warrant for the king's execution, but denied the malicious intention; and argued, that no action could be conſidered as a crime but as it was circumſtantiated. When the counſel for the crown proved that he acted maliciouſly by the depoſition of witneſſes, who ſtated his frolicſome behaviour on the ſignature of the warrant, and his advice to the commiſſioners to try the king "In the name of the parliament and all the good people of England," he anſwered, "My lord, the commiſſion went in the name of the commons aſſembled in parliament, and the good people of England; and what a matter is it for one of the commiſſioners to ſay, let it be acted by the *good people* of England."

Finding,

* Being excepted and indicted as *Henry* Martin, he urged that his name was Harry Marten; his ſignature on the king's warrant is Hen. Marten.

Finding, however, that the confidence of his deportment, and his quibbling remarks, diſguſted the court; obſerving the impreſſion made by the depoſition of the witneſſes, he was apprehenſive leſt the jury ſhould be affected by the reply of the ſolicitor general; "You know all *good* people did abhor it: I am ſorry to ſee ſo little repentance;" and artfully added, "My lord, I hope that which is urged by the learned counſel, will not have that impreſſion upon the court and jury which it ſeems to have, that I am ſo obſtinate in a thing ſo apparently ill. My lord, if it were poſſible for that blood to be in the body again, and every drop that was ſhed in the late wars, I could wiſh it with all my heart. But, my lord, I hope it is lawful to offer in my own defence that, which, when I did it, I thought I might do."

He then wholly reſted his defence on the neceſſity of obedience to the exiſting government, and ſubmitted himſelf to the king's mercy; "I think," he added, "his majeſty that now is, is king upon the beſt title under heaven; for he was called in by the repreſentative body of England. I ſhall, during my life, long or ſhort, pay obedience to him; beſides, my lord, I do owe my life to him if I am acquitted. I do confeſs I did adhere to the parliament's army heartily; my life is at his mercy; if his grace be pleaſed to grant it, I have a double obligation to him." He concluded, "I have one word more; though I am accuſed in the name of the king, if I be acquitted, the king is not caſt; it doth not concern the king that the priſoner be condemned, it concerns him that the priſoner be tried; it is as much for his intereſt, crown, and dignity, that the innocent be acquitted, as that the nocent be condemned*."

Being found guilty, he petitioned parliament for pardon, obtained a reſpite, and, in company with the regicides who came in upon proclamation, was brought before the houſe of lords to anſwer why judgment ſhould not be executed. They ſeverally alledged, "That, upon his Majeſty's gracious declaration from Breda, and upon the votes of parliament, and his majeſty's proclamation, publiſhed by the advice of the lords and commons, they did render themſelves,

* Trials of the Regicides.

themſelves, being adviſed that they ſhould thereby ſecure their lives, and humbly craved the benefit thereof, the mercy of the houſes, and their mediation to his majeſty in their behalfs." Marten petulantly added, "that he had never obeyed any proclamation before this, and hoped that he ſhould not be hanged for taking the king's word now *."

His enmity to Cromwell, and ſurrender on the proclamation, were juſtly urged by his friends, as motives for pardon; which he obtained on condition of perpetual impriſonment. He was firſt confined in the tower, but ſoon removed to the caſtle of Chepſtow; in both of which places he was treated with great lenity. His wife was permitted to reſide with him; he had the full enjoyment of his property, and was allowed to receive viſits, and to frequent, in company with a guard, the houſes of the neighbouring gentry, particularly that of St. Pierre, where his portrait is ſtill preſerved †. His ſituation could not be diſtreſſed, as Mrs. Williams recollected two of his maid ſervants, who always mentioned him as a kind maſter, and were able to ſave money in his ſervice.

Misfortune and impriſonment however do not ſeem to have had the ſmalleſt effect in changing his regicidal principles. His epitaph, compoſed by himſelf, proves that he died as he lived, a ſtaunch republican; and an anecdote current in the family of St. Pierre, confirms this fact: converſing one day on the politics of paſt times, Mr. Lewis aſked him if the ſcene could be brought back, and the actors again introduced on the ſtage of life, whether he would ſign the warrant for the execution of his ſovereign? Marten replied in the affirmative. Mr. Lewis, diſguſted with this anſwer, withdrew his protection, and never again received him at St. Pierre.

Marten lived to the advanced age of ſeventy-eight, and died by a ſtroke of apoplexy, which ſeiſed him while he was at dinner, in the 20th year of his confinement. He was buried in the chancel of the pariſh church at Chepſtow. Over his aſhes was placed a ſtone with an inſcription, which remained there until one of the ſucceeding vicars, declaring his abhorrence that the monument of a regal ſhould ſtand ſo near the altar, removed the ſtone into the body of the church.

The

* Chandler's Debates, vol. 1. p. 42. † See p. 4.

The epitaph, compoſed by himſelf, is in theſe words:

" HERE
" September the 9, in the Year of our Lord 1680,
" Was buryed a true Engliſhman
" Who in *Berkſhire* was well known
" To love his country's freedom 'bove his own
" But living immured full twenty year
" Had time to write as doth appear
" His Epitaph

" H ere or elſewhere (all's one, to you, to me,)
" E arth, air, or water, gripes my ghoſtleſs duſt
" N one knows how ſoon to be by fire ſett free
" R eader if you an oft tryed rule will truſt,
" Y ou'll gladly do and ſuffer what you muſt.

" M y life was ſpent with ſerving you, and you,
" A nd death's my pay (it ſeems) and welcome too;
" R evenge deſtroying but itſelf, while I
" T o birds of prey leave my old cage, and fly.
" E xamples preach to th' eye, care then (mine ſays)
" N ot how you end, but how you ſpend your dayes."

Henry Marten exhibits a ſtriking inſtance, that thoſe who begin revolutions are ultimately ſacrificed by thoſe who continue them, and that they, who ſhake off the due reſtraints of a legal and regular government, will ſuffer greater oppreſſions from thoſe whom they contributed to elevate, than they even apprehended from the monarch whom they aſſiſted to dethrone. His example is alſo a proof that the loudeſt declaimers againſt tyranny and peculation, when raiſed to power often become the greateſt tyrants and plunderers themſelves; and affords a ſalutary warning to the people, that the abolition of eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhments, leads to the extirpation of religion and morality; and that viſionary ſchemes of perfect liberty, terminate either in republican deſpotiſm, or in the tyranny of uſurped authority.

HERE
SEPTEMBER TE ONTH YEAR OF OVR LORD
1680
WAS BVRRIED A TRVE ENGLISHMAN
WHO IN BERKSHIERE WAS WELL KNOWNE
TO LOVE HIS COVNTRYS FREEDOM ABOVE HIS OWNE
BVT LIVEING IMMVRED FVLL TVEITY YEAR
HAD TIME TO WRIT AS DOTH APPEAR
HIS EPITAPH

HERE OR ELS WHERE ALLS ONE TO YOV
EARTH AIR OR WATER GRIPES MY GHOST [illegible] DUST
NONE KNOWS HOW SOON TO BE BY [illegible] TFREE
READER IF YOU AM OFT TRYD RVLE W[illegible]
SOVLL GLADLY DO AND SVFFER WHAT [illegible] AIVST
MY LIFE WAS SPENT WITH SER[illegible]G YOV AND YOV
AND DEATHS MY PAY [illegible] AND WELCOME TO
REVENGE DESTROYING BVT IT SELF WI[illegible]
TO BIRDS OF PRAY LEAVE MY OLD CAGE
EXAMPLE PREACH TO HEYE CARE HEN[illegible]
NOT HOW YOV END, BVT HOW YOV SPEN[illegible]
AGED 78 YEAR _

T. Jennings del.

Fac simile of Henry Martens Tombstone.

CHAPTER 40.

Piercefield.—Proprietors.—Anecdotes of Valentine Morris.—Houſe.—Grounds.—Wynd Cliff.

DURING my ſucceſſive tours I paid repeated viſits to Piercefield, which ſince the improvements of Valentine Morris, has become the ornament of the county.

Piercefield was long the property of the family of Walters: a curious ſtone chimney-piece, ſtill preſerved in the ſervants hall, with the date of 1553, is ornamented with a ſhield of arms, of which the firſt quartering, a ſquirrel ſejant, is the bearing of the family. In 1727, John Walters ſold the place to Thomas Rous, eſq. of Wooton Underedge, Gloceſterſhire; from whoſe ſon it was purchaſed, in 1736, by colonel Valentine Morris, who ſerved for ſome time in a military line in the iſland of St. Vincent's. He came to Piercefield in 1739, made additions to the old manſion, which was little better than a farm houſe, and reſided there till his death.

His ſon Valentine Morris was born in 1727, and at an early period inherited conſiderable property, principally ſituated in the iſland of Antigua. About 1752, he eſpouſed miſs Mary Mordaunt, niece of lord Peterborough, a lady of great beauty and accompliſhments, but without fortune, and fixed his reſidence at Piercefield.

Before this period Piercefield was unknown and unfrequented; the charms of the ſituation were not duly appreciated, and the grounds ſolely employed for the purpoſes of agriculture, or covered with inacceſſible foreſts. Morris was enraptured

raptured with the romantic beauties of the ſcenery, carried walks through the foreſts, opened the fineſt points of view, and with exquiſite taſte adapted his improvements to the genius of the place, leaving

"The negligence of nature, wide and wild *."

He lived in a ſtyle of princely rather than private magnificence, and treated thoſe whom curioſity drew to the ſcenes of Piercefield, with a liberal but oſtentatious profuſion: ſervants out of livery conſtantly attended without being permitted to receive any gratuity; collations were indiſcriminately offered to the numerous viſitors; and even his hot-houſe, cellar, and larder, were open to the innkeeper of Chepſtow for the accommodation of travellers.

After a reſidence of ſeveral years his circumſtances became involved, and he was compelled to offer Piercefield for ſale. This embarraſſment is generally imputed to the expences of a conteſted election in 1771, for the county of Monmouth, with John Morgan, eſq. of Tredegar; but the real cauſes were derived from a variety of circumſtances; an expenſive ſtyle of living, numerous benefactions, imprudent management of his Weſt India eſtates, a ſucceſſion of unfavourable ſeaſons in the iſland of Antigua, inattention to his accounts, but, above all, an unfortunate propenſity to gaming. Being diſappointed in finding a purchaſer for Piercefield, he contracted his expences into a narrower ſcale; but it was too late, and his embarraſſments increaſing, he was compelled to retire to his Weſt India poſſeſſions.

Before his final departure from England he indulged himſelf with bidding adieu to Piercefield. In company with a friend, he ſurveyed his own creation, for the laſt time, with apparent compoſure and manly reſignation. On his return to Chepſtow he was ſurrounded by the poor, who throwing themſelves on their knees, thanked him for numerous inſtances of his bounty, and implored the bleſſing of heaven on their generous benefactor. Even this affecting ſpectacle he bore with ſilent fortitude, and entered the chaiſe which conveyed him to London. But he had no ſooner reached the Gloceſterſhire ſide of the bridge, than his ear was ſtruck with a mournful peal of bells, muffled, as is uſual on the loſs of de-

* Thomſon.

parted friends; deeply affected with this mark of eſteem and regret, he could no longer controul his emotions, and burſt into tears*.

On his return to the Weſt Indies he was appointed lieutenant governor of St. Vincent's, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf with ſo much zeal and activity in promoting the cultivation of the iſland, where he almoſt raiſed another Piercefield, that he was ſoon after nominated governor in chief. In this ſituation he conſiderably improved his fortune, and had almoſt repaired his loſſes, when the iſland, for the defence of which he advanced conſiderable ſums, was taken by the French. In vain he applied to government for the payment of his expences and arrears; the want of proper vouchers, diſagreement with the natives and officers, the blame incurred from a precipitate capitulation, and a variety of other unfortunate events, protracted the diſcharge of the debt.

Thus circumſtanced, he returned to England for the purpoſe of ſeeking redreſs, but with ſmall hopes of ſucceſs, for he obſerved to a friend that he ſhould paſs the winter in the king's bench priſon. This prediction was too well fulfilled; he was arreſted ſoon after his arrival, and underwent a confinement of ſeven years.

During his impriſonment he publiſhed a juſtification of his adminiſtration at St. Vincent's, which does him honour as a governor, a ſoldier, and a patriot; yet, from deaths and frequent change of miniſtry, his accounts were never audited or ſettled, though his demands were great and juſt; for a treaſury warrant for £. 5,000, dated June 28, 1794, was iſſued to his repreſentatives as part of the balance.

He was reduced to the greateſt diſtreſs; his books and all his moveables were expoſed to ſale; even the gleanings of Mrs. Morris's toilet were ſold to purchaſe bread; and his friend Mr. Thickneſſe, who ſhared his confinement, ſhared with him the ſcanty pittance which he poſſeſſed to ſupply his neceſſities. His calamities were aggravated by the ſituation of his amiable wife, who ſunk under this load of diſtreſs, and became inſane.

At length, in 1786, he obtained his liberty, and lord North, compaſſionating his

* For this intereſting anecdote I am indebted to Mr. Jennings.

his diſtreſs, expreſſed an inclination to redeem the injuſtice of former adminiſtrations, and to liquidate his arrears. But public buſineſs and new delays interpoſing, protracted the ſettlement of his affairs. In the midſt of theſe diſappointments he died at the houſe of his brother-in-law, Mr. Wilmot, in Bloomſbury ſquare, on the 26th of Auguſt 1789.

His friend Mr. Thickneſſe, who knew him well, and who equally ſhared his proſperity and misfortunes, has thus delineated his character:

"That he was a man of ſuperior taſte, and the moſt amiable manners, all who knew him know; and his natural capacity, if it was not in the firſt rank, was very far from being of an inferior claſs; but among his misfortunes, for ſo it muſt be conſidered, at leaſt as relating to this world, he poſſeſſed that goodneſs of heart to the laſt which led him to judge of mankind, not from what he had found them, but from what he felt in himſelf. The leading feature in his character was a zeal which approached to Quixotiſm, whether it was employed in the ſervice of his country, his friend, or the diſtreſſed. He has, indeed, been repreſented as too much under the influence of a vain oſtentation; and the generoſity, the urbanity, and the charities of his life, have been imputed to that principle; but by whom? By thoſe who envied his proſperity, and ſought to frame an excuſe for their ingratitude in his adverſity; what other vanity governed his character, than that which is the main ſpring of human excellence, we know not; but this we know and repeat, that he was a moſt faithful ſervant of his country; that he poſſeſſed an eminent capacity for friendſhip; that he never failed to aſſiſt diſtreſs when he could, and that he did aſſiſt it when he ought not. He ſhared his good things, in the day of his fortune, with the friends of his proſperity; and he divided the pittance that remained in the hour of his diſtreſs with the companions of his adverſity. He had his failings, which diſaſters might increaſe, and the inſolent rigour of affected virtue may condemn. That his paſſions might ſometimes overcome his morality, and that the benevolence of his heart might too often extinguiſh his prudence, are circumſtances which it is the duty of friendſhip to lament. But the beſt of us are the children of infirmity; and the virtues of

Valentine Morris were ſufficient, in the opinion of thoſe who knew him beſt, to counterbalance all his errors *."

During his reſidence at Piercefield, Valentine Morris diſtinguiſhed himſelf by many acts of public utility, and his name is ſtill endeared to the county for promoting the turnpike bill, the ſucceſs of which was principally owing to his exertions.

The inhabitants of Chepſtow idoliſe his memory, and relate numerous inſtances of his benevolence with a warmth of affection which borders on enthuſiaſm; among others, one which does honour to his feelings, ſhould not be omitted.

Holding one day a converſation with Mr. Knowles, whom he employed in building the alcove, and from whom I received the anecdote, he made enquiries concerning the family of Walters, and aſked if any of them were yet living. Knowles replied, that William, the brother of John who ſold the eſtate, was ſtill alive and in great diſtreſs. "Bring him to Piercefield," ſaid Morris, "and I will make him welcome." "If you would give him your whole eſtate he could not walk, he is ſo much afflicted with the gout in his feet, and earns a precarious livelihood by fiſhing." "If he cannot then come to me, I will take the firſt opportunity of calling on him."

Being ſome time afterwards engaged with Knowles in forming an opening in the wood, he ſaw two men in a boat; "Stay here," he ſaid to Knowles, "I will croſs the river in that boat, and examine whether the objects I want to ſhew can be ſeen from hence." Deſcending haſtily, he hailed the watermen, leaped into the boat, was ferried over, and on his return entered into converſation with the men, and enquired their names and condition. "My name," ſaid one of them, "is * * * * * I am a native of Chepſtow; and that man," pointing to his companion, "is William Walters."—"What, Walters of Piercefield?" exclaimed Morris. "Yes, pleaſe your honour, I am the brother of John who ſold the eſtate which you now enjoy." Morris made no reply; but giving a gratuity to each of the men, leaped on ſhore, rapidly aſcended the hill, and

* Biographical anecdotes of Valentine Morris, Gent. Mag. for Sept. 1789.

G. Holmes del.

T. Medland sculp.

PIERCEFIELD.

The Seat of Mark Wood Esq.r seen from the opposite heights.

Pub. Jan.y 22. 1801. by Messrs. Cadell & Davies, Strand.

and rejoining Knowles, cried, "I have been talking with Walters;" taking out ſeveral guineas, he added, "carry theſe to him, and tell him that he ſhall never want while it is in my power to aſſiſt him." Knowles ſuggeſted, that as the man was much addicted to liquor, he would render him more ſervice by a weekly allowance. The next market day one of Morris's ſervants carried to Walters a joint of meat, and a ſmall ſum of money, which were continued weekly until his death. Morris defrayed the expences of his funeral, and his carriage conveyed the corpſe to St. Arvan's, where it was interred in the family vault.

In 1784, Piercefield was bought by George Smith, eſq. of Burnhall in the county of Durham, and in 1794 by the preſent proprietor colonel Wood, formerly chief engineer of Bengal, and member of parliament for Newark. Colonel Wood has increaſed the property by different purchaſes in the vicinity, particularly part of the peninſula of Lancaut; the whole conſiſting of not leſs than three thouſand acres, of which a conſiderable portion is woodland; the timber alone on the eſtate of Piercefield was eſtimated at £.8,000. He has likewiſe conſiderably improved the place, and reſtored many of the walks, which were choked with underwood, to their former beauty under Valentine Morris.

A new lodge of freeſtone, with an iron gate and paliſados, leads from the high road into the park; and the approach to the houſe is conducted with great taſte under the direction of Mr. Meickle. In paſſing through the grounds the eye is charmed with the diverſity of ſcenery; hill and dale, woodlands and lawns, venerable groves of oak, elm, beech, and cheſnut, ſtupendous rocks crowned with ivy and underwood, form a ſtriking aſſemblage, and prepare the traveller for the beauties of Piercefield.

The houſe is a magnificent building of freeſtone, ſeated nearly in the center of the park, and ſurrounded by lawns and open groves of wide ſpreading oak beech and elm. It ſtands on an elevation of ground that ſlopes gently to the banks of the Wy, and commands a diſtant and delightful view over the broad Severn and the red cliffs of Auſt, backed by the fertile hills of Gloceſterſhire; oppoſite appear the white rocks of Lancaut, which here loſe their rugged form and harmoniſe with the ſurrounding ſcenery; beneath the caſtle and town of Chepſtow preſent

ſent themſelves to ſingular advantage, and the Wy ſweeps in grand curves among rocks and woods, until it falls into the Severn.

The houſe in which Valentine Morris reſided was partly pulled down by Mr. Smith, and a new edifice begun, of which the ſkeleton was nearly finiſhed when the place was purchaſed by the preſent proprietor. Colonel Wood removed the old part of the building, and conſiderably extended and improved the plan; he added a doric portico, and handſome wings in the ſame ſtyle of architecture, which are ornamented with ſtatues, and enriched with baſſo relievos, from the deſigns of the firſt artiſts.

The interior diſtribution of the principal apartments is excellent, equally calculated for private comfort or public ſplendor. The ſaloon or entrance is an oblong octagon, with a moſaic pavement of Painſwick ſtone and black marble; it is decorated with beautiful verd antique ſcalioli pilaſters, and leads to the grand ſtaircaſe, through a porch with verd antique columns, ſupporting a fan-light of painted glaſs executed with conſiderable taſte. This porch is cloſed by folding doors of looking glaſs, in which the reflection of the diverſified proſpect from the front of the houſe forms a pleaſing deception.

On each ſide of the ſaloon are the withdrawing and dining rooms, finiſhed and furniſhed in an elegant and coſtly ſtyle, and adorned with corinthian pilaſters of Egyptian marble, and ſculptures, and alto relievos by the beſt maſters. Theſe apartments are connected with the breakfaſt and billiard rooms, and lead through a conſervatory on each ſide to the library and muſic room, which form the ground floor of the wings. The perſpective of this ſuite, even in its preſent unfiniſhed ſtate, attracts particular notice; and when the conſervatories are filled with rare and beautiful plants, will be inexpreſſibly ſtriking.

The grand ſtaircaſe is of Painſwick ſtone, and riſes by three flights of ſteps to a gallery, which forms the principal communication with the bed-chambers. The ſides of this gallery are hung with four exquiſite pieces of gobeline tapeſtry, ſixteen feet by fourteen, which belonged to Louis the ſixteenth. They exhibit the natural hiſtory of Africa, and repreſent every production of the animal and vegetable kingdoms, grouped with admirable taſte and ſcience, and uniting correctneſs of deſign with richneſs and beauty of colouring.

The

Surveyed by Maull.

The preſent proprietor has ſpared no expence to render the manſion of Piercefield ſuitable to the grandeur and beauty of the ſurrounding ſcenery: all the apartments unite harmony of proportion with coſtlineſs of decoration, and Piercefield ſcarcely yields to any houſe in this kingdom in taſte and ſplendor.

Although, in conſequence of a kind and hoſpitable reception by colonel Wood, I had an opportunity to examine at my leiſure the grounds of Piercefield, I feel it extremely difficult to give an adequate deſcription of this enchanting ſpot, where nature wantons in ſuch variety, and combines ſo great a portion of the beautiful, the pictureſque, and the ſublime.

The grounds occupy an extenſive ſpace, ſtretching between the road and the Wy, from Wynd Cliff to the caſtle of Chepſtow; and the walk leading from one extremity to the other, is ſcarcely leſs than three miles in length.

In the compoſition of the ſcenery, the meandring Wy, the ſteep cliffs, and the fertile peninſula of Lancaut, form the ſtriking characteriſtics.

The Wy, which is every where ſeen from a great elevation, paſſes between Wynd Cliff and the Banagor rocks, winds round the peninſula of Lancaut, under a ſemicircular chain of ſtupendous cliffs, is loſt in its ſinuous courſe, again appears in a ſtraighter line at the foot of the Lancaut rocks, and flows under the majeſtic ruins of Chepſtow caſtle *, towards the Severn.

The rocks are broken into an infinite variety of fantaſtic ſhapes, and ſcattered at different heights and in different poſitions; they ſtart abruptly from the river, ſwell into gentle acclivities, or hang on the ſummits of the hills; here they form a perpendicular rampart, there jet into enormous projections, and impend over the water.

But their dizzy heights and abrupt precipices are ſoftened by the woods, which form a no leſs conſpicuous feature in the romantic ſcenery; they are not meagre plantations placed by art, but a tract of foreſts ſcattered by the hand

* To view theſe delightful ſcenes in full perfection, the traveller ought to viſit the place at high tide, when the river is full; he ſhould paſs through the village of St. Arvan's, to the upper part of the grounds, and deſcend from the Lover's Leap to the alcove, by which he will enjoy the whole ſcenery in proper ſucceſſion, and to the greateſt advantage.

hand of nature. In one place they expand into open groves of large oak, elm, and beech; in another form a ſhade of timber trees, copſes, and underwood, hiding all external objects, and wholly impervious to the rays of the ſun; they ſtart from the crevices of the rocks, feather their edges, crown their ſummits, clothe their ſides, and fill the intermediate hollows with a luxuriant maſs of foliage, bringing to recollection Milton's deſcription of the border

" Of Eden, where delicious paradiſe,
" Now nearer, crowns with her incloſure green,
" As with a rural mound, the champain head
" Of a ſteep wilderneſs, whoſe hairy ſides
" With thicket overgrown, groteſque and wild,
" Acceſs deny'd, and over head up grew
" Inſuperable height of loftieſt ſhade,
" - - - - - - - - - - - -
" A ſylvan ſcene, and as the ranks aſcend
" Shade above ſhade, a woody theatre
" Of ſtatelieſt view *."

The peninſula of Lancaut, on the oppoſite bank, in the midſt of theſe impending rocks, and hanging woods, is a farm in the higheſt ſtate of cultivation. The ground ſwells gradually from the edge of the water towards the iſthmus, on which ſtands the farm-houſe, backed by rugged rocks; open groves and ſingle trees are ſcattered over the meadows and corn fields, and the margin of the river is ſkirted with a mantle of verdure, and fringed with a range of fine elms.

On entering the grounds at the extremity of the village of St. Arvan's, and at the bottom of Wynd Cliff, the walk leads through plantations, commanding on the right a diſtant view of the Severn and the ſurrounding country; it penetrates into a thick foreſt, and conducts to the Lover's Leap, where the Wynd Cliff is ſeen towering above the river in all its height and beauty, and below yawns a deep and wooded abyſs. It waves almoſt imperceptibly in a grand outline,

* Paradiſe Loſt, b. iv. l. 132,—142.

line, on the brow of the majeſtic amphitheatre of cliffs impending over the Wy, oppoſite to the peninſula of Lancaut, then croſſes the park, runs through groves and thickets, and again joins the bank of the Wy, at that reach of the river which ſtretches from Lancaut to the caſtle of Chepſtow.

From the Lover's Leap the walk is carried through a thick mantle of foreſts, with occaſional openings, which ſeem not the reſult of art or deſign, but the effect of chance or nature, and ſeats placed where the ſpectator may repoſe and view at leiſure the ſcenery above, beneath, and around *. This

" bowr'y walk
" Of covert cloſe, where ſcarce a ſpeck of day
" Falls on the lengthen'd gloom †,"

is conſonant to the genius of Piercefield; the ſcreen of wood prevents the uniformity of a bird's eye view, and the imperceptible bend of the amphitheatre conveys the ſpectator from one part of this fairy region to another without diſcovering the gradations. Hence the Wy is ſometimes concealed or half obſcured by overhanging foliage, at others, wholly expanding to view, is ſeen ſweeping beneath in a broad and circuitous channel; hence at one place the Severn ſpreads in the midſt of a boundleſs expanſe of country, and on the oppoſite ſide to the Wy; at another, both rivers appear on the ſame ſide, and the Severn ſeems ſupported on the level ſummit of the cliffs which form the banks of

* Theſe views, the beauties of which I ſhall not attempt to deſcribe, are 1. The Lover's Leap. 2. A Seat near two beeches on the edge of the precipice. 3 The Giant's Cave, which occupies the center of the amphitheatre, and overlooks Lancaut peninſula. 4. The Half-way Seat under a large beech tree. 5. The double view. 6. Above Pierce-wood. 7. The Grotto. 8. The Platform. 9. The Alcove.

A part of the grounds not uſually viſited, is however worthy the notice of the picturesque traveller. From the Giant's Cave, a road winds beautifully along the brow of the cliff to a grove of lofty oak, beech and ſycamore, wholly cleared from underwood, in the center of the extenſive foreſt which ſpreads beneath the Lover's Leap. In this charming and ſequeſtered ſpot is a cold bath, ſupplied by a copious and tranſparent rill, which ſprings at the foot of the Wynd Cliff, and ripples down the ſide of the declivity. The road then deſcends to Marlridge meadow, on the bank of the Wy, where the river appears like a lake, and the fertile peninſula of Lancaut riſes in a gentle acclivity from the margin of the ſtream to the iſthmus. A beautiful walk two miles in length ſkirts this meadow, at the foot of the ſtupendous range of Piercefield Cliffs, and then mounts to the houſe by ſteps cut in a ſteep rock. As the houſe ſtands ſeveral hundred feet above the river, the aſcent is long and difficult; but the toil is amply repaid by the beauty and ſublimity of the ſcenes.

† Thomſon.

of the Wy. Hence the ſame objects preſent themſelves in different aſpects and with varied accompaniments; hence the magic tranſition from the impervious gloom of the foreſts to open groves; from meadows and lawns, to rocks and precipices, and from the mild beauties of Engliſh landſcape to the wildneſs of Alpine ſcenery.

The ſummit of Wynd Cliff, which towers above the northern extremity of the grounds, commands in one point of view the whole extent of this intereſting ſcenery. As I ſtood on the brow of this precipice, I looked down upon the fertile peninſula of Lancaut, ſurrounded with rocks and foreſts, contemplated the hanging woods, rich lawns, and romantic cliffs of Piercefield, the caſtle and town of Chepſtow, and traced the Wy, ſweeping in the true outline of beauty, from the Banagor crags to its junction with the Severn, which ſpreads into an æſtuary and is loſt in the diſtant ocean.

A boundleſs extent of country is ſeen in every direction from this commanding eminence, comprehending not leſs than nine counties; in the midſt of this expanſe, I principally directed my attention to the ſubject of my Tour, which now drew to a concluſion; I traced with pleaſing ſatisfaction, not unmixed with regret, the luxuriant vallies, and romantic hills of this intereſting county, which I had traverſed in various directions; but I dwelt with peculiar admiration on the majeſtic rampart which forms its boundary to the weſt, and extends in one grand and broken outline, from the banks of the Severn to the Black mountains,

" where the broken landſcape, by degrees
" Aſcending, roughens into rigid hills;
" O'er which the CAMBRIAN MOUNTAINS, like far clouds
" That ſkirt the blue horiſon, duſky riſe."

THOMSON'S SPRING.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.—N° I.

Letter from Mr. Owen, Author of the Welſh and Engliſh Dictionary *; containing Remarks on the Structure of the Welſh Language, and on the Characteriſtics of the Gwentian Dialect; accompanied with two Odes.*

THE Welſh tongue being ſtill prevalent in the county of Monmouth, I am anxious that you ſhould inform the world of its true character, and that it is not a rough and unpoliſhed jargon. I take the liberty therefore of exhibiting to you ſome of its prominent features. Having already beſtowed the labour of upwards of fifteen years in forming a dictionary of this language †, I am induced to hope that credit may be given to my ſtatement.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE.

There are nearly three hundred poſſible ſounds, or articulations. Theſe, with the exception of about forty, are preſerved, form the baſis of the Welſh tongue, and denote reſpectively ſome ſimple or abſtract idea. From theſe radical ſounds all compound words are regularly derived, and conſequently every component part of long words has an independent ſignification. If the ſmall number of ſimple ſounds which I have mentioned to be wanting, were recovered and brought into uſe, the reſult would be, that no articulation could be uttered, which had not ſome meaning attached to it in this tongue.

COPIOUSNESS OF EXPRESSION.

The late Lewis Morris ventured to aſſert, that the Welſh is more copious than any other four languages united. I am fully ſatisfied that he has not over-rated its copiouſneſs; and that it would not be difficult to convince ſtrangers of the truth of the poſition; but I ſhall here merely point out the primary ſource of ſuch a compaſs of ſpeech. Compound words may be formed from the radical ſounds, without any other limit than ſuch as may ariſe from the abſurdity or contrariety of ideas, forbidding their connection. Another characteriſtic of the language is, that all the prefixes and terminations of words are univerſal in their application, and the multiplicity of ſuch prefixes and tetminations may be learnt from the following table.

Number of prefixes	64.	Terminations of Plural Nouns	19.
Terminations of Nouns	58.	Plural Diminutives	5.
of Adjectives	21.	Singular Noun Diminutives	6.
of Infinitive Verbs	10.		

A ſimple

* This aſtoniſhing work, formed by the labour of one man, cannot be too ſtrongly recommended to the patrons and lovers of philology. It elucidates the laws, hiſtory, poetry, antiquities and learning of the ancient Britons; is accompanied with numerous quotations from their beſt writers, and will contain the enormous number of 75,000 words more than any Welſh dictionary yet extant. It is publiſhed in parts, and the fourth, which has been recently given to the public, includes the letter I. But this work is only part of a grand and extenſive plan. "The dictionary," obſerves the learned author, in a letter lately received, "I conſider as part only of a work of great extent, intended as a proof that all the languages of Europe are deſcended from an original language. In developing the ſubject, one volume will contain the Engliſh words, and another the French words derived from the Welſh; there will be alſo two other comparative vocabularies, one with the Greek, and the other with the Latin. With reſpect to the Engliſh, under the letter B. for inſtance, I have rejected all the words obviouſly borrowed from known languages; the reſult has left between 1,500 and 1,600 words, about 900 of which have been ſuppoſed to be Saxon, and the reſt ſtand in the dictionaries as derived from the Welſh, and unaccounted for; but of theſe I ſhall prove about 800 to be Saxon, and 700 and upwards to be Welſh.

† One inducement for undertaking this work was, becauſe there was no dictionary extant which contained more than about fifteen thouſand words of the language. The preſent work compriſes about one hundred thouſand words; and muſt ſtill be conſidered merely as a collected ſpecimen of words uſed, and not as the compaſs of the language.

A ſimple verb is capable of being expreſſed in five different ways, or by ſo many conjugations; to which nineteen different prefixes may be put to modify its meaning: for inſtance, any verb may be made reciprocal or reflective, by prefixing *ym* to it.

Examples:

Uno, to unite, *Ymuno*, to unite one's ſelf, to become united.
Gweled, to ſee, *Ymweled*, to ſee one another.
Rhyymwelsynt, they had before ſeen each other.

To the verb *Briwo*, to break into particles, to ſpray—there are three prefixes, where it is uſed in the following line—

"*Dyçymmriw ton amliw am lan*," CASNODYN of Gwent.
The various-tinted wave *will be ſpraying itſelf* about the ſhore.

By computing the number of ſimple verbs at about 10,000, it follows, from the above-mentioned combinations, that we can, including the ſimple and compound, employ upwards of a million of verbs. If we multiply a million by the number of inflections which take place in the various modes and tenſes, the aſtoniſhing compaſs of verbal expreſſions in this language will appear.

THE GRAMMAR.

It is a principal excellence of the Welſh, that its grammar is more conciſe and regular, perhaps, than that of any other language. Its proper alphabet, preſerved in the bardic inſtitutes, is formed upon univerſal principles, and conſiſts of ſixteen radical letters, of which four are vowels, and the other twelve conſonants, arranged in order according to their connection with each other. Both theſe claſſes of letters have certain modifications of forms, which may be called ſecondary letters, to denote the ſounds, into which ſeveral of the radical powers are ſuſceptible of changing under their various combinations. But unfortunately, by writing the Welſh language in Roman characters, this unity of ſyſtem is deſtroyed, and many irregularities ariſe from the want of a ſufficient number of proper ſigns. A variety of methods, therefore, have been reſorted to at different periods, to repreſent powers for which no letters could be found in the adopted alphabet. With the inconveniency of a foreign alphabet we may ſtill boaſt of advantages; for, whatever ſigns are uſed, every letter retains one uniform and proper ſound, without the leaſt deviation; a knowledge of the alphabet alſo is all the inſtruction neceſſary towards reading the language; and the greateſt merit is, that the alphabet is our perfect ſtandard of pronunciation.

IS THE WELSH AN HARMONIOUS LANGUAGE?

This is a queſtion, which ſtrangers have habitually decided in the negative; adding likewiſe, that it is overloaded with conſonants. With a view to aſcertain the truth of this objection, I endeavoured to calculate the proportion of vowels and conſonants in various languages. The reſult, with regard to the Welſh, was, that upon an average, for one hundred conſonants it had the like number of vowels; in the Greek, the proportion was ninety five vowels for a hundred conſonants; then in order followed the Italian, Spaniſh, Latin, and French; afterwards the Engliſh; German and Dutch, nearly equal; but the greateſt diſparity appeared in the Dutch. In regard to the harmony of the Welſh tongue, a ſtranger to its orthography cannot judge from books; but if I were to ſelect ſuch phraſes as are written in characters familiar to him, it would be difficult to draw expreſſions equally ſmooth from other languages.

Examples:

Na ſoma vi
Nam ſoma
Paid a vy ſomi
Na ſoma monov
Na wna vy ſomi
} Do not diſappoint me.

Pam nas tali imi? Why doſt thou not pay to me?
Poni weli? Why doſt thou not ſee?
O daioni? Oh goodneſs!

Na ſonia. Do not mention.
Od ei yno. If thou wilt go there.
Cei ſelu. Thou ſhalt behold.
Ni ſeli vi
Nim ſeli
Ni ſeli monov
Ni wnei vy ſelu
} Thou wilt not behold me.
A ſelo. That ſhall behold.

Er à weli. For what thou ſhalt ſee.
Deua yma rai troion. Come here ſometimes.
Pan diriono hinon. When the weather ſhall become pleaſant.
" Pan gano ednan larian lais." When the bird of melodious note ſhall ſing.
Pan rano duw. When God diſtributes.
Ni rani mono. Thou wilt not diſtribute it.
Y dyn a elo. The man who ſhall go.
Pe delit yno. If thou wert to come there.
Os taranai. If it ſhould thunder.
Oni feli. Unleſs thou wilt behold.
" Car ni reto vry a rêd obry." The carriage that will not run up will run down.
Buaſai da itti. It had been well for thee.
Os ni rani dy olud. If thou wilt not diſtribute thy wealth.
O tarana. If it will thunder.
Na neidia arno. Do not jump upon it.
Synia y plantos yna ſy yn truanu. Conſider thoſe little children who are becoming wretched.

DIALECTS OF THE WELSH, PARTICULARLY THE GWENTIAN.

There are three principal dialects; the *Gwynedian*, prevailing in North Wales; the *Dyvedian*, in the weſtern parts of South Wales; and the *Gwentian*, ſpoken in the eaſtern parts of the ſame country, or rather Glamorganſhire and Monmouthſhire. We have many manuſcripts proving theſe dialects to have been the ſame upwards of ſix centuries ago as they now are, and confined to the ſame diſtricts; hence we may infer their exiſtence in the ſame ſtate for many ages.

I ſhall paſs over the other dialects of the Welſh, and confine my remarks to the *Gwentian*, which is uſed in the county under your diſcuſſion. The general character of this dialect is a majeſtic ſimplicity, the expreſſions being always full, and free from contractions. Some of the general differences between it and the *Gwynedian* are exhibited in the following examples:

Gwentian.	*Gwynedian.*	
Oc ei ben,	O'i ben	- Out of his head.
Izei ben,	I'w ben	- Into his head.
Dothoezynt,	Daethynt	- They had come.
Arnazynt,	Arnynt	- Upon them.

Gwentian.	*Gwynedian.*	
A orug,	A wnaeth	- That he did.
Yd oez,	Yr oez	- There was.
Maes,	Allan	- Out.

And the general uſe of *o* for *io* in verb and plural endings.

Tàno,	Tànio	- To fire.
Dynon,	Dynion	- Men.

The greater number of our old chronicles are written in the *Gwentian* dialect; and much of the poetry of the ancients bears the ſame character. There was a celebrated poet of Gwent, named CASNODYN, who flouriſhed in the commencement of the fourteenth century, and whoſe works may be deemed the laſt of the ancient claſſics of Siluria. I have ſelected the following ode, chiefly for its brevity, and accompanied it with a literal tranſlation; it is addreſſed to a lady called GWENLLIAN, the meaning of which name is, *One that is white as the torrent foam*; and this is neceſſary to be known, as the poet plays upon the epithet, by drawing from it moſt of his compariſons. This Ode is ſo extremely complicated and artful in its conſtruction, that it would be a fruitleſs attempt, I believe, to imitate it in any other language. Every line ends in EG; but they are all unaccented ſyllables except four, and conſequently have not the jingle of full rhyme; they are alſo overpowered by the accented concatenation of other ſounds, in different parts of the verſes, in ſuch a manner, that an incorrect ear might almoſt miſs their exiſtence in the compoſition.

AWDYL A GANT CASNODYN I WENLLIANT, *merç Cynan ab Meredux ab Rhŷs ab Gruffux ab yr arglwyx Rhŷs: Gwraic ſyr Gruffux Llwyd ab Rhŷs ab Ednyved Vyçan.*

Aelaw iawn yw dawn gne gwawn gnawd-çweg,
Eiliw ewynvriw gwynwiw gwaneg,
Eiliais erod glôd, gloewdeg Wenlliant:
Eiliant dy voliant vîl eçwaneg.

AN ODE SUNG BY CASNODYN to GWENLIANT, *the daughter of Conan ſon of Meredud ſon of Rhys ſon of Gruffud ſon of the lord Rhys: ſhe was the wife of ſir Gruffud Lwyd ſon of Rhys ſon of Ednyved Vyçan.*

Tranſcendent in virtue, whoſe ſoft ſkin, of goſſamer delicacy, is of the hue of the purely white ſpraying foam of the wave, thy fame has been the ſubject of my lay, GWENLIANT ſprightly and fair; a thouſand more will ſing thy praiſe.

Elw

Elw dreiziaw, nim daw traw, trwy gyſteg,
Elwyz twv clodryz, dyz na deuzeg:
Eil cain galled rhéd ym reidreg obaith,
Oleuvaith hoewdaith, vraint ehedeg.

Though I anxiouſly ſeek the object of my wiſh, not a glance of the angel-preſence, high towering in renown, ſhall I have in a day nor in twelve: my craving hope like the gairiſh thiſtle down, privileged with wings floats in an airy courſe of wide extended light.

Arial bu gethal briw zial bręg:
Arwyz dieilwyz rwyz vo yn rhedeg
Ar hoewlun luz hun, hoen gwen-waneg maen,
Pan wiſg ton vrwyſgvlaen gaen am gareg.

Paſſion has been a ſting wounding to puniſh weakneſs: a token without fulfilment, lightly paſſes away on the ſleep-obſtructing form, ſo ſprightly, ſeeming as a white ſtream of the rock, when the impending ſurge throws a mantle over the ſtone.

Eirgall ziwáll, ball bwyll ogyweg,
Eirioed yn zioed hoed gyhydreg:
Eur mâl a'm bu dâl dolur attreg vraw,
Yn llaw wyl andaw, gan ail Indeg.

Diſcreet of word and without a fault, baniſhing the wavering ſentiment, I am ever without an aſſignation for the longed intercourſe: fine gold has been my recompence for the pain of the torment of delay, which my hands received with diffident wiſtfulneſs, from a ſecond INDEG *.

Eirian verç Çynan! çynran canreg
Eryr tymhyr gwyr; gweilç diſaeſneg!
Arglwyz culwyz, rhwyz rwyv Groeg, rugylçwyrn:
Ellwng o heiyrn y teyrn têg!

Beauteous daughter of CONAN! diſpenſe the hundred gifts of the eagle of the land of men; of heroes free from Saxon ſpeech! a proſpering lord, like a liberal Grecian ſage, eloquent and energetic. —Releaſe from chains a comely chief!

Mau geiriau golau gwyl Wyndodeg;
Mi a wyr moli hîl rhi hael rêg:
Meithir y cludir clôd anreg tavawd;
Mor zidlawd vy ngwawd yn Ngwenhwyſeg.

I am maſter of the lucid words of modeſt GWYNEDIAN language; I am competent to celebrate the progeny of a prince of bounteous gift: far-diſtant will fame be wafted by the power of words; ſo unreſtrained my muſe in GWENTIAN ſong.

Main virain riain, gain Gymräeg;
Mwyn vorwyn hunzwyn, hoenzygyn gyſteg,
Myrz ai mawl, heb dawl, dilezyv, çweg lwyſiaith,
Mawr zawn ganymdaith oeſdaith oſteg.

The ſlender and elegant damſel, from whoſe lips Welſh ſo purely flows; the kind ſleep-depriving maid, cauſing health-wearing anguiſh, a myriad will praiſe her without ceaſing in undebaſed words, ſoft and pure, which in recital ſhall greatly bleſs the courſe of life.

Menawd molawd gnawd gne ton waezgreg
Manaw, wiſg laſar, avar oveg,
Mynyç, lle llewyç lliw ehöeg ym,
Man ym dug gwelwlym ar rym redeg.

May then the panegyric lay make impreſſion on her, who is of the hue of the hoarſely-clamoring wave of MANAW, azure-mantled and of ſullen din, which often, to where the bright green ſmiles, wafts me on mighty courſe, gloomy and ſevere:

Myned er gweled gwened gwaneg
Manon wawr Arvon, govion goveg;
Maengaer, glôd beildaer glud balldeg mygyrvan:
Meingan dyn, erwan o Dinorweg!

Haſtening to view how glorious the path of the luminary of ARVON, cauſing anxieties to the mind; the queen of the ſtone-built caſtle, the far-famed ample place of reſort to a ſplendid throne: the ſlender and gentle maid of DINORWEG!

In conſequence of the overthrow of the Welſh government, by the conqueſt of Edward I. a great revolution took place in their poetry as well as in the mode of verſification; the following poem is a ſpecimen of a taſte which became prevalent with reſpect to both. It is extracted from the works of *David ab Gwilym*, page 524†. The author, who is generally ſtiled the Welſh Ovid, flouriſhed about the middle of the fourteenth century, under the peculiar patronage of *Ivor the Generous*, an anceſtor of the *Tredegar* family ‡. The love of *David ab Gwilym* to a lady of the name of *Morvid* bears a ſimilitude to

* *Indeg*, the daughter of Avarwy, a celebrated beauty in the court of Arthur, recorded in the Triades as one of the three chaſte damſels of Britain.

† Printed in London in 1789; and edited jointly by Owen Jones and William Owen.

‡ See p. 64.

to the courtſhip between Petrarch and Laura. The Welſh bard compoſed 147 poems in praiſe of his fair miſtreſs; but, from the influence of wealth, ſhe was married by her friends to *Rhys Gwgan*, whom the poet nick-named *Bwa Bach*, or the jealous *Little Bow*, who afterwards ſerved with the Engliſh army in France, and was a captain in the battle of Creſſy. *David ab Gwilym* twice ſtole away the lady after her marriage, probably during the abſence of her huſband in France. For this conduct the poet was fined and impriſoned; and in each inſtance liberated by the gentlemen of *Gwent* and of the *Vale of Glamorgan*. He teſtified his gratitude for theſe favours in two beautiful poems: In one, he invokes the ſun to ſhed bleſſings over their country; and the other is the following:—

I yrn yr Hâv i aneçr Morganwg.

Tydi yr Hâv, tâd y rhwys,
A'th goedvrig berth gauad-vrwys;
Tywyſog gleiniog y glyn,
Teſog, draw 'n defraw dyfryn!
Prâf yw dy vriſg i'n privfyrz,
Profwyd penial gwial gwyrz!
Panelog, pwy un eiliw,
Pwyntiwr dedwyz y gwyz gwiw!
Peraiſt deganau purion,
Percwe brwys, mewn parc a bron;
Pawr ar glawr y glaſlawr glwys:
Pêr ydyw ail paradwys!
Rhozaiſt vlodau a rhyzaïl,
Rheſau gwyç ar dyau dail.
Cawn nodiau cywion adar,
Can wanwyn, ar dwyn a dâr;
A gwrandarw'r gerz vangaw valç
Yn mywyll, lle rân mwyalç
Cawn genyd y byd o'i ben
A lluoz bawb yn llawen.
Clyw vi, Hâv! o çav i'm çwant
Yn genad ti'n d'ogoniant,
Hed droſov i dir Eſyllt,
O bervez gwlad Wynez wyllt:
Gyr oni's b'oç i'm goror,
Anwylav man, yn acl môr!
V'anerçion yn dirion dwg
Ugeinwaith i Vorganwg
Vy mendith, a liith y llês.
Deuganwaith i'r wlad gynhes!
Dymgais a'm gwlad o'i hamgylç;
Damred a çerzed ei çylç!
Gwlad dau gaead yn gywair;
Lle nôd gwyç, llawn yd a gwair;
Llynoz pyſg, gwinllanoz pêr;
A maendai, lle mae mwynder
Arglwyzi yn rhoi gwlezocz,

An Invocation for the Summer to greet Morganoc.

Thou Summer, parent of fertility, with thy fair branching woods of darkening exuberance; glittering ſovereign of the dale, with ſunſhine who doſt yonder wake the plain! Riſe is thy path along our beaten roads, prophet of the future growth of the tender ſhoots! What one chequered with equal hues, thou happy rearer of the excelling woods! Thou haſt ſpread goodly gems in ſprightly woof of luxuriance over field and lawn; the herbage on the face of the purely verdant ground, ſweet like paradiſe the ſcene! Thou haſt given flowers and exuberant foliage in ſplendid wreaths on leafy arbours. We ſhall hear the chirpings of young birds, from the ſpring, among thickets and from the oak; and catch the proudly emulated lay in the glade, where blackbirds ſing. We ſhall have from thee the world before us, and the multitudes of creation full of joy.

Hear me, O Summer! if to my wiſh I obtain thee a meſſenger in thy glory, fly for my ſake to the land of Eſyllt *, from the midſt of Gwyned's barren land, onward go until thou art in my borders, deareſt ſpot, on the margin of the ſea.

My gratulations kindly bear twenty times to Morganoc; my bleſſing and the wiſh of good two hundred times to the genial country! O pervade my country on every ſide, and run thy courſe around its circuit! A country under ſhelter all complete; a place fair of fame, full of corn and paſture; ponds for fiſh; delicious vineyards; and ſtone-built manſions, where kindneſs reigns; chieftains giving feaſt, with high liberality of wine publickly ſerved. Ever will it be ſeen, that fair home of mine, ſpreading in groves with orchards †;

Haelioni

* *Tir Eſyllt*, *Bro Eſyllt*, and *Eſyllwg* are other names for Siluria, uſed by the poets; the common appellations now are *Gwlad Forgan* and *Morganwy*.

† Orchards are now leſs frequent than formerly in Glamorgan; a great many remains of ancient ones are to be ſeen there in various places.

Haelioni cun, heilwin coez.
Ei gwelir vyth, dêg lawr vau,
Yn llwynaiz gan berllanau;
Llawn adar a gâr y gwyz
A dail a blodau dolyz;
Coed oſglog; caeau diſglair;
Wyth ryw yd, a thri o wair;
Perlawr parlas mewn glâs glôg,
Yn llanaiz a meillionog.
Yno mae gwyçion vonez
A dâl ym aur mâl a mêz;
Ac aml gôr y cerzorion,
A ganant â thant a thôn:
Ymborth, amred i'r gwledyz,
A darz o honi bob dyz;
A'i blîth, a'i gwenith-ar goez,
Yn doraeth i'r holl diroez;
Morganwg, yn mŷg ynys,
A byrth bob man, llan a llys.
O'th gav, yr Hâv, i'th awr harz,
A'th geindwv, a'th egindarz;
Dy hinon yn dirion dwg
Aur-genad i Vorganwg.
Teſog vore, gwna'r lle'n llon;
Ag anerç y tai gwynion
Rho dwv, rho gynnhwv gwanwyn;
A çynnull dy wull i dwyn;
Tywyna'n valç ar galç gaer
Yn luglawn, yn oleuglaer;
Dod yno 'n y vro dy vriſg,
Yn wyrain bawr, yn irwiſg;
Ysgwyd lwyth o ber-ſrwythyz
Yn râd gwrs ar hyd ei gwyz;
Rho'th gnwd val frwd ar bob frith
A'r gweunyz, a'r tîr gwenith?
Gwiſg berllan, gwinllan, a garz,
A'th lawnder, a'th frwythlawndarz:
Gwaſgar hyd ei daiar dêg
Gu nodau dy gain adeg!
Ac y'nghyvnod dy vlodau,
A'r miwail vrîg tewzail tau,
Caſglav y rhôs o'r cloſyz;
Gwull dolau, a gemau gwyz;
Hoew veillion, dillynion llawr
A glwyſbert flur y glaſbawr
I'w rhoi'n gôv aur-enwog iôr,
Uvyz wyv, ar vez Ivor!

abounding with birds who love the woods, leaves and flowers of the dales; there the branching trees; the ſhining fields; eight ſorts of grain, and three of hay; a pleaſant ſward of perennial freſhneſs in a mantle of green, expanding and covered with trefoil. Splendid nobles are there, who reward me with fine gold and mead; and there the frequent bands of ſongſters who tune the ſtring and voice: Plenty diffuſive through the countries, daily pours from thence; and its dairy, and its wheat a public proviſion for the diſtant lands*; Morganoc, in the ſkirt of an iſle, feeds every place, the country and the court.

If I obtain thee, O Summer, in thy ſplendid hour, with thy fair growth and thy ſhooting gems; thy ſerenity pleaſantly bear, thou golden meſſenger, to Morganoc. With ſun-ſhine morn gladden thou the place; and greet the whitened houſes †; give growth, give the firſt fruits of the ſpring, and collect thy bloſſoms to the buſh; ſhine proudly on the wall of lime, full of light and gayly bright; leave there in the vale thy footſteps, in juicy herbage, in freſh attire; diffuſe a load of delicious fruits, in bounteous courſe among its woods; give thy crop like a ſtream over every lawn, the meadows and the land of wheat; clothe the orchard, the vineyard, and the garden, with thy abundance and thy teeming harveſt: Scatter over its fair ſoil the lovely marks of thy glorious courſe!

And, Oh! whilſt thy ſeaſon of flowers, and thy tender ſprays thick of leaves remain; I will pluck the roſes from the brakes; the ſlowerets of the meads, and gems of the woods; the vivid trefoils, beauties of the ground, and the gaily-ſmiling bloom of the verdant herbs, to be offered to the memory of a chief of faireſt fame: Humbly I will lay them on the grave of Ivor‡!

* It is particularly famous for dairies and excellent wheat.

† The practice of whitewaſhing is to this day a diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic in Monmouthſhire and Glamorganſhire.

‡ From this pathetic tranſition, with which the poem cloſes, we learn that *Ivor Hael*, or Ivor the generous, was dead when it was compoſed, that is in 1346, the year of the battle of Creſſy. The practice of planting flowers and aromatic herbs on the graves of deceaſed friends is ſtill prevalent in Glamorganſhire. A border of ſtones is generally made round the grave, which is periodically whitewaſhed.

APPENDIX.—N° 2.

The ancient Kingdom of MORGANOC, *o* SILURIA, *was of much greater Extent than the preſent County of the ſame Name, which the Engliſh call* Glamorganſhire; *but its Limits varied in different Periods; for there was a Time when the* Severn *formed its Boundary up to* Gloceſter; *however, the preſent Counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth may be conſidered as the common Extent of* SILURIA; *as the Reader will find illuſtrated in a curious piece of Hiſtory, extracted from the* MYVYRIAN ARCHÆOLOGY OF WALES, *vol. 2* *, *communicated by Mr. Owen.*

SAITH CANTREV MORGANUC: oc e CUTA CIVARUIT.

GUIBETED pobyl Breteinieid, paniu ſaith Cantrev eſſit e MORGANOC, eni argluitiaeth ai eſcobaeth.

E cintav iu e CANTREV BICHAN; er ail Cantrev iu GUIR a CHEDUELI ' tridet iu Gorenit; peduerit iu CANTREV PENUCHEN; pummed iu GUAENLLUC ac EDELIGION; e ueched cantrev iu GUENT-IS-COED; e ſeithved cantrev iu GUENT-UCH-COED, ESTRAD EW, ac EUAS: er rai a eluid en dui laues Guent-uch-Coed: ac hevid ERGING ac ANERGING, mal i mae e cubil tervineu en *Llever Teilo.*

Pan etoet *Edgar* vrenin en *Lloegir*, a *Howel Da* vab *Cadell* deuiſauc *Decubarth Cimru*: ſev oet heni e dridet dalaith, et oet i *Vorgan Hen.* oll VORGANUC en tangnevetus, hit pan geiſioet *Howel Da* i dreiſiau am ESTRAD EW ac EUAS.

Pan glebu *Edgar* heni, ev a devenoet ato *Howel Da*, a *Morgan Hen.* ac *Ewein* ei vab it ei lys ev in *Llundain.* Ac ev a orandeuis eſtir er emriſon a oet retunt. Sev a dervinuid, trui givreithlaun varn a lys, paniu *Howel Da* a dreiſioet en andledus, trui gamuet, *Morgan Hen.* ac *Ewein* ei vab; ac am heni divreiniau *Howel Da* a orugant o ESTRAD EW ac EUAS en dragiuit.

THE SEVEN HUNDREDS OF MORGANOC: out of the BREVIARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

BE it known to the Britiſh people, that there are ſeven hundreds in MORGANOC, within its lordſhip and biſhoprick.

The firſt is the *Cantrev Bychan*; the ſecond is *Gower* and *Kedweli*; the third is *Gerenid*; the fourth is *Cantrev Penuchen*; the fifth is *Gwaeniluc* and *Edeligion*; the ſixth hundred is *Gwent-under-Wood*; the ſeventh hundred is *Gwent-over-Wood*, *Eſtrad Ew* and *Euas*; the which were called the two ſkirts of *Gwent-over-Wood*; and likewiſe *Erging* and *Anerging*, according as the whole limits are laid down in the BOOK of TEILO.

When EDGAR was king in *England*, and HOWEL the Good, ſon of CADELL, was prince of the *ſouth diſtrict of Wales*; that is to ſay the third province, MORGAN the Aged had peaceable poſſeſſion of all *Morganoc*, until HOWEL the Good ſought to deprive him of *Eſtrad Ew* and *Euas*.

When EDGAR was informed of that affair, he ſummoned HOWEL the Good, and MORGAN the Aged with OWEN his ſon, to appear at his court in *London*. And he heard the nature of the diſpute, which ſubſiſted between them. Thereupon it was determined, by the lawful ſentence of the court, that HOWEL the Good had uſurped without a right and unjuſtly, from MORGAN the Aged and OWEN his ſon; and upon that account HOWEL the Good was deprived of the title to *Eſtrad Ew* and *Euas* for ever.

Ac

* The Archæology above referred to, is a work the two firſt volumes of which are now printing, and therefore not yet before the public. The firſt volume contains all that remains of the Welſh poetry, from the remoteſt period to the cloſe of the thirteenth century. The contents of the ſecond volume are ancient chronicles, tracts, and hiſtorical documents. Other volumes will follow, to include what is moſt important and worthy of preſervation in the old Welſh manuſcripts.

The few, to whom this work is eſtimable, owe its appearance, to Mr. *Owen Jones*, citizen of London, who has expended ſeveral hundred pounds on this occaſion, who is generally known to his countrymen for ſimilar deeds of exalted patriotiſm; and by them called *Owen Myvyr*, from the name of his birth-place in North Wales. Thoſe whom he has aſſociated in the labour, wiſhed to affix the name of MYVYR to a publication, which future ages will conſider as the Welſh claſſics.

Ac en ol heni *Edgar* vrenin a ganiataoet ac a roes i *Ewein* vab *Morgant Hen*. ESTRAD EW ac EUAS, o veun eſcobaeth *Llandav*, a chadarnâu heni frui weithredot ito ac in etivedion vith, o getſenedigaeth a theſtiolaeth holl archeſcib, eſeib, ieirll, a baruniaid *Lloegir* a *Chimru*, dan roi eu mellitih ir neb a divreiniai bluiv TEILO ac argluidiaeth MORGANUC or guledit hin: a hevid bendigedic vai ae caduai mal i delai en dragiuit.

Ar gueithred a wnaeth *Edgar* ar hin en treſordy LLANDAV i mae engcadu.

And afterwards king EDGAR granted and gave to OWEN the ſon of MORGAN the Aged, *Eſtrad Ew* and *Euas*, within the biſhoprick of *Landav*; and confirming that by a deed to him and to his heirs for ever, through the concurrence and teſtimony of all the archbiſhops, biſhops, earls, and barons of *England* and *Wales*; laying their anathema on whoſoever ſhould deprive the ſee of TEILO and the lordſhip of MORGANOC of theſe countries; and alſo pronouncing as bleſſed thoſe who ſhould preſerve them in their true title for ever.

And the deed, which EDGAR executed of this matter, is preſerved in the treaſury of LANDAV.

APPENDIX.—N° 3.

Addition to Chapter 5.

SINCE my departure from Monmouthſhire, Mr. Evans viſited, at my requeſt, the chain of encampments which occupies the ſummit of the ridge commencing near Cat's aſh, and ſtretching to the Pencamawr, and which he ſuppoſes to have been the ſite of a Britiſh, or perhaps a Roman road, from the Julia Strata to Monmouth. This chain conſiſts of the camps of Coed y Caerau, Kemeys Folly, and Caerlicyn.

The encampment Coed y Caerau * is ſituated about two miles and a half from Caerleon, and half a mile from the commencement of the aſcent near Cat's aſh, on the brow of the eminence overlooking the Uſk. It conſiſts of three circular camps, adjoining to and connected with each other, two of which are ſurrounded with a double rampart.

About half a mile farther, at Kemeys Folly, is an oblong encampment, nearly of a rectangular ſhape, the weſtern ſide inclining to a curve; the road paſſing through the weſtern and eaſtern ſides, divides it nearly into two equal parts. Its form bears ſtrong marks of a Roman character, and the diſtance from Caerleon being only three miles, it might have been uſed for airing the troops, and for protecting the Roman road which ran beneath on the left bank of the Uſk.

A quarter of a mile from Kemeys Folly, was Caerlicyn, a circular encampment, with a tumulus on its northern ſide, and which might have been uſed as an exploratory camp, or for the purpoſe of guarding cattle. This faſtneſs is ſuppoſed to derive its name from Lycyn, a Britiſh chieftain, who poſted himſelf on this ſpot after the departure of the Romans.

The poſition of theſe camps is very ſtrong, and though conſiderably elevated, they are ſupplied with ſprings of water.

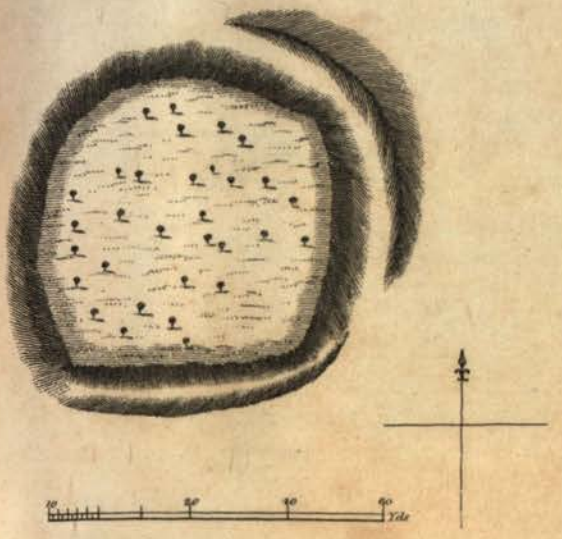
This chain of encampments was continued along the central parts of Monmouthſhire, from the Julia Strata to Monmouth. Striguil caſtle, which ſtands in the ſame line, was probably built on the ſite of an ancient poſt.

Nearly in the center of this chain is the Gaer Vawr, or Great Encampment, which is ſituated on the brow of an eminence above Wolves' Newton, between the Golden hill and the Devaudon, and is worthy of being viſited by the traveller for the beauty and extent of the proſpect. It is the largeſt encampment in Monmouthſhire, was probably the ſite of a Britiſh town, and from the extraordinary height of the vallum and depth of the entrenchments, may have been occupied and ſtrengthened by the Saxons during their predatory incurſions; and its central poſition between Caerleon, Caerwent, Chepſtow, Uſk, Raglan, and Trelech, rendered it a place of great importance.

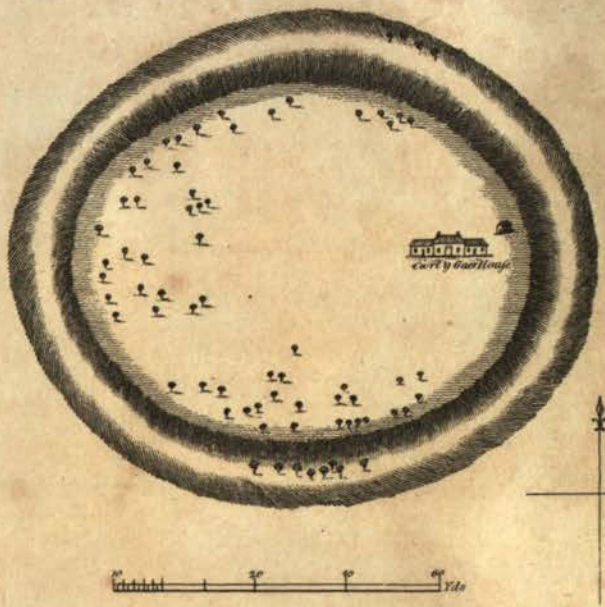
Not far from the Gaer Vawr, and near Wolves' Newton, is the ſmall circular encampment of Cwrt y Gaer, which exhibits remains of walls and ramparts of ſtone. Plans of theſe different encampments are here annexed.

* The Woods of the encampment.

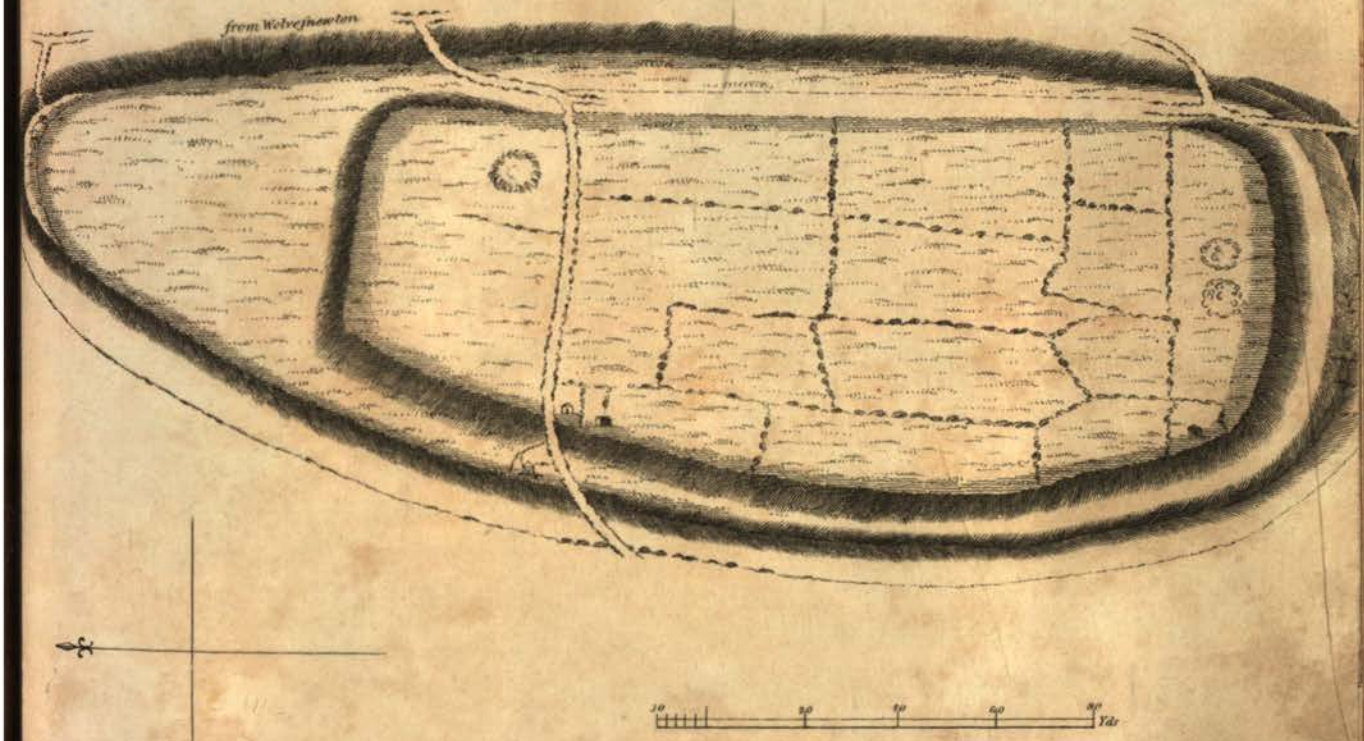
Encampment of Porthcaffeg



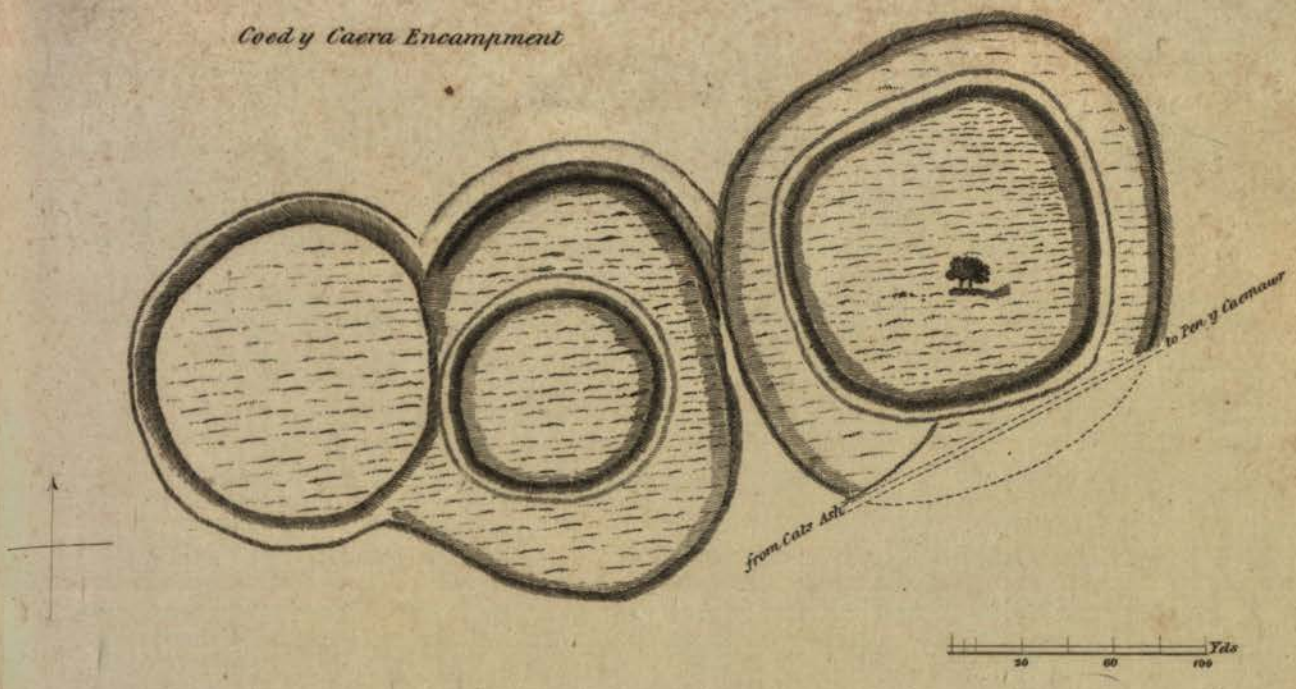
Encampment at Cwrt y Gaer near Wolvesnewton



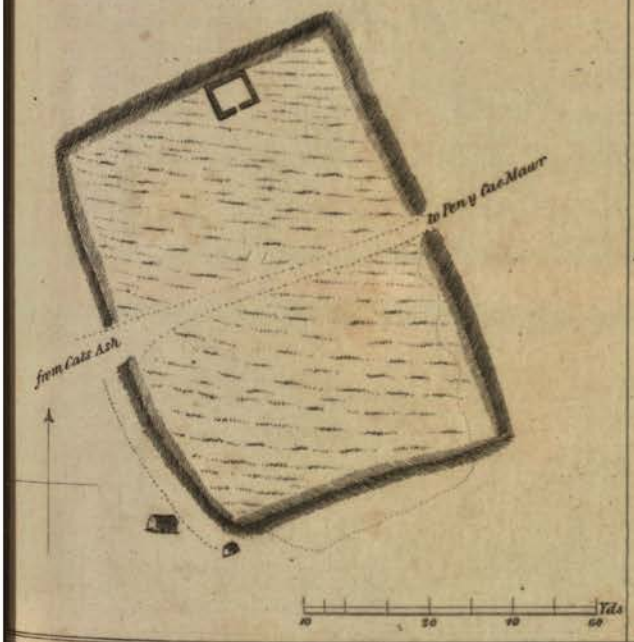
Gaer Fawr Encampment



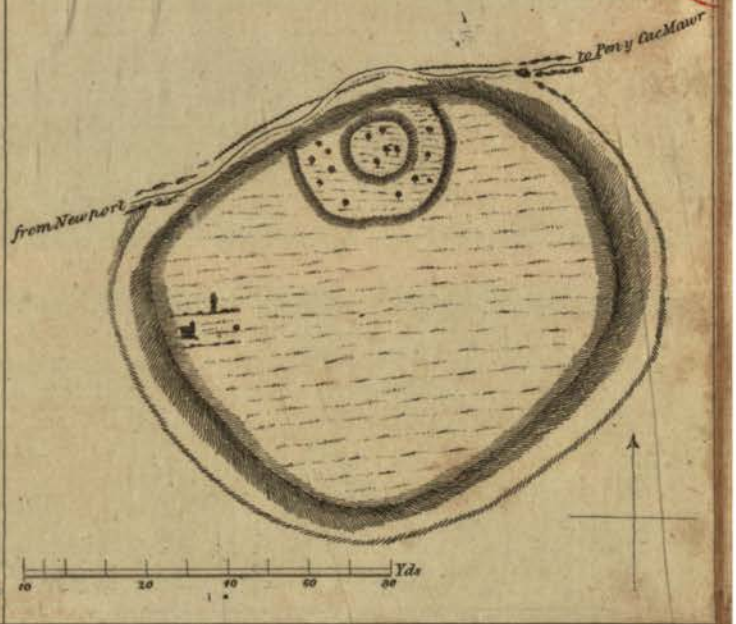
Coed y Caera Encampment



Kemeys Folly Encampment



Encampment at Caerlicyn



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Pubd July 1.1808. by Cadell & Davies Strand

APPENDIX.—No 4.

Abſtract of the Charter of Newport in the County of Monmouth; (referred to in p. 46.) Amount of Tonnage on the Monmouthſhire Canal, for One Year, commencing September 9, 1798.

BY a charter granted on the 20th day of September, in the 21ſt year of the reign of king James 1, confirming former charters, grants, and preſcriptions, the Borough of Newport is incorporated by the name of "The mayor, aldermen, and burgeſſes of the Borough of Newport in the "County of Monmouth." And to have perpetual ſucceſſion by the ſame name, and thereby enabled and capable in the law to have, purchaſe, and poſſeſs lands, tenements, liberties, &c. to them and their ſucceſſors in fee, or for ever, or for years, &c. and to give, grant, demiſe, &c. and to plead and be impleaded, &c. as any other body corporate or politic may, and to have and uſe a common ſeal for negotiating the cauſes and buſineſs thereof, &c. To be governed by a mayor and twelve aldermen, who have power to make bye laws from time to time for the good order and government of the ſame; and to impoſe puniſhments and penalties, &c. by impriſonment or fines, &c. on offenders againſt the ſame. The mayor and aldermen, or the major part, of whom the mayor to be one, to aſſemble together on Monday next before Michaelmas yearly in the Guildhall, or any other convenient place within the borough, to name and return two of the aldermen to be preſented to the ſteward of the lord of the borough, who ſhall elect one of the two aldermen ſo returned to be mayor, and ſhall ſwear him into office accordingly. In caſe of the death of the mayor, the major part of the aldermen may return two other aldermen, to be in nomination of mayor in like manner. Aldermen dying, to be replaced by the mayor and major part of the aldermen at any meeting, out of the burgeſſes. Mayor or alderman, when duly appointed as above, refuſing to ſerve or execute the office, to be fined in any ſum not exceeding ten pounds, and may be committed to the borough priſon, there to remain until payment. The mayor and aldermen to chuſe and appoint a recorder, who ſhall continue in office during life, unleſs, &c. and who ſhall by himſelf or his deputy be aſſiſting to the mayor and aldermen on all neceſſary occaſions, and who ſhall be ſworn to execute the office. The mayor, two ſenior aldermen, and ſteward, to be juſtices of the peace within the borough; who ſhall have power, or any two or more of them (of whom the mayor and ſteward ſhall be two) to hold and keep general ſeſſions of the peace for puniſhing offences committed within the borough, and to do and perform all other judicial acts relating to a ſeſſions of the peace. Any two of the ſaid juſtices, of whom the mayor or ſteward ſhall be one, may commit offenders for treaſon, murder, felony, or robbery, or ſuſpicion thereof, to Monmouth goal, to be tried at the aſſizes. The mayor ſhall appoint two bailiffs, &c. The mayor and aldermen exempt from ſerving on juries out of the borough, unleſs they have lands or tenements without the ſame to qualify them. No foreigner, unleſs a freeman, may ſell or expoſe to ſale within the borough any wares or merchandize, otherwiſe than in groſs, or other than cattle, and all neceſſaries for the victualling the ſaid borough, nor ſhall hold any ſhop, place or ſtation, nor uſe any myſtery, occupation, or art manual within the borough, without the ſpecial licence of the mayor and aldermen uner the common ſeal. Two fairs * to be held in every year, the one on Aſcenſion day,

* There is another fair held by preſcription on the 15th of Auguſt yearly; and a monthly tollfree market for horned cattle and pigs, held on the third Monday in every month, which latter was eſtabliſhed about 32 years ago.

The burgeſſes of Newport are alſo by ſeveral patents granted in former reigns, and confirmed in the 27th of Elizabeth, exempt from the payment of ſundry tolls and duties, viz. murage or wall toll, bridge toll, laſtage, ſtallage, pickage, tronage, or wool-weighing toll, kayage or wharfage, and terrage or tillage, and of all other cuſtoms and duties throughout the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, and the duchy of Aquitain, or elſewhere throughout her majeſty's dominions; (the duties upon wool, hides, fleeces or ſheep ſkins, and wines, only excepted.)

There is a ſpacious tract of wharf land within the borough, called the marſhes, belonging to the inhabiting burgeſſes and their widows, containing about 50 ſtatute acres, which they have enjoyed by preſcription for upwards of a century paſt; the hay whereof is divided between them according to cuſtom on Monday next before Midſummer in every year; and they have an unlimited right of grazing the lattermath with all manner of cattle, &c. from the 16th of Auguſt to Chriſtmas eve.

day, and the other on the feaſt of St. Leonard, or 6th of November, in ſuch convenient place within the borough as to the mayor and aldermen ſhall ſeem beſt; with a pye-powder court there to be held in time of the fairs, with all liberties, free cuſtoms, tolls, ſtallages, pickages, fines, amerciments, and all other profits, commodities, advantages, and emoluments to ſuch fairs, and pye-powder court belonging, &c.

Confirmation of Privileges of NEWPORT, *by Queen* ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH, by the grace of God of *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*, *queen*, defender of the faith, &c. to all before whom theſe *preſents* ſhall come health: we have examined letters patent of his majeſty *Henry* the Vth formerly king of England, our *progenitor*, bearing witneſs to this effect:—*Henry*, by the grace of God king of *England* and *France*, and ſovereign of *Ireland*, to all before whom theſe preſents ſhall come health; we have examined letters patent of his majeſty *Henry* (IVth) lately king of *England*, our father, to this effect:—*Henry*, by the grace of God king of *England* and *France*, and ſovereign of *Ireland*, to all before whom theſe preſents ſhall come health; we have examined letters patent of his majeſty *Richard* the IId after the conqueſt bearing witneſs to this effect:—*Richard*, by the grace of God king of *England* and *France*, and ſovereign of *Ireland*, to all before whom theſe preſents ſhall come health; we have examined a chart of his majeſty *Edward*, late king of *England*, our great-grandfather, to this effect:—*Edward* by the grace of God king of *England*, ſovereign of *Ireland*, and duke of *Aquitain*, to the *archbiſhops*, *biſhops*, *abbots*, *priors*, *earls*, *barons*, *ſheriffs*, *judges*, ſuperintending *officers*, and to all *bailiffs*, and their officers, health:—Know ye that *we* of our ſpecial favour have *granted*, and by *this* our *chart* have confirmed to our beloved and faithful *Hugh le Deſpenſor* the younger, that *he* and his heirs, and their burgeſſes, and others the inhabitants of *Cerdyf*, *Uſk*, *Caerlion*, *Newport*, *Conbrugge*, *Neeth*, and *Kenefeg* in *Wales*, of all their effects and goods, wares, as well merchandize as others, be for ever releaſed from *toll*, *wall-toll*, *bridge-toll*, *ware-carriage-toll*, *ſtall or ſtanding toll*, *piccage*, *toll for breaking up the ground to fix ſtall ſtandings or booths*, *tronage*, *wool-waighing toll*, *Layage*, *wharf toll*, *tirrage*, *lord's-land-tillage*, and alſo of all other *cuſtoms* and *duties* throughout our whole *kingdom* and our duchy of *Aquitain*, and our *ſovereignty* of *Ireland*, and elſewhere throughout our dominions, the duties upon *wool*, *hides*, *fleeces or ſheepſkins*, and *wines due* to us and our *heirs ſucceſſors* only excepted.

Wherefore it is our will, and we ſtrictly enact for *us* and our *heirs*, that the *ſame Hugh* and his heirs and their burgeſſes, and others the inhabitants of the aforeſaid towns of *Kerdyf*, *Uſk*, *Caerlion*, *Newport*, *Conbrugge*, *Neeth*, and *Kenefeg* in *Wales*, of all their effects and goods, as well merchandize as others, be for ever releaſed from *toll*, *wall-toll*, *bridge-toll*, *ware-carriage-toll*, *ſtall or ſtanding-toll*, *toll for breaking up the ground to fix ſtalls*, *ſtandings or booths*, *wool-waighing-toll*, *wharf toll*, *lords land tillage*, and alſo of all other *cuſtoms* and *duties* throughout our whole kingdom, and our *duchy* of *Aquitain*, and our ſovereignty of *Ireland*, and elſewhere throughout our dominions, *duties* upon *wool*, *hides*, *fleeces*, or *ſheepſkins*, and *wines due* to us and our *heirs-ſucceſſors* only excepted as aforeſaid: *Given* with the atteſtation of the venerable *fathers*, W. archbiſhop of *Cant.* *primate* of all England, J. biſhop of *Norwich*, J. biſhop of *Cheſter*, *Adomaro de Valencia*, *earl of Pembroke*, *Edmund* earl Arundel, *John de Segrave* ſenior, *William Martyn*, *Richard Dommory* ſtewards of our houſehold, under our hand at Weſtminſter, the 4th day of March, and the ſeventeenth year of our reign. (that is Richard IId.) We therefore finding *all* and *ſingular* within the ſaid chart ratified and granted for us the heirs and our ſucceſſors, do to the extent of our power ratify and approve the ſame; and to the aforeſaid burgeſſes and others the inhabitants of the aforeſaid town of *Newport*, and their heirs and ſucceſſors, *we grant* and *confirm*, as the aforeſaid chart fully witneſſeth; and that they the ſame burgeſſes, and others the inhabitants of the aforeſaid town of *Newport*, ought to avail themſelves of, and enjoy the privileges and releaſes aforeſaid, in the ſame manner as we find their predeceſſors have been ever accuſtomed fully to uſe and enjoy the ſame privileges and releaſes, from the time of making the aforeſaid chart. In teſtimony whereof, we have cauſed theſe our letters patent to be made: Witneſs ourſelf at the abby of *Margam*, the 10th day of September, in the eighteenth year of our reign. (that is Henry IV.)

We therefore, finding the aforeſaid grants and confirmations, and alſo *all* and *ſingular* contained in the aforeſaid *chart* and *letters* ratified, and we receive and approve them granted for us and our heirs to the extent of our power, and we grant and confirm to our now beloved the burgeſſes and others the inhabitants of the aforeſaid town of *Newport*, their heirs and ſucceſſors, as the aforeſaid chart and letters

fully witneſs, and as they the ſame burgeſſes and others the inhabitants of the aforeſaid town of *Newport*, have accuſtomed always hitherto fully to uſe and enjoy thoſe privileges and releaſes from the time of making the aforeſaid *chart*: In teſtimony whereof, we have made theſe letters patent, witneſs ourſelf at Weſtminſter, the 25th day of November, in the ſecond year of our reign. (that is Henry V.) We therefore, with the advice and aſſent of the lords ſpiritual and temporal, aſſembled at our parliament holden at Weſtminſter, in the *firſt* year of our reign, do approve, ratify, and confirm the aforeſaid letters, touching thoſe privileges and releaſes, together with others the irrevoked contents of thoſe letters; and as the aforeſaid letters witneſs, that they the burgeſſes and others the inhabitants, ought to uſe and enjoy the aforeſaid privileges and releaſes, as their predeceſſors the burgeſſes and others the inhabitants of the ſaid town of *Newport* have hitherto always accuſtomed to fully uſe and enjoy the aforeſaid privileges and releaſes from the time of making the aforeſaid letters and ratifications: In teſtimony whereof, we have made theſe our letters patent, witneſs ourſelf at Weſtminſter, the 2d day of February in the ſecond year of our reign, by breviat from the privy ſeal, *Haſeley*. (that is Eliſabeth.)

We therefore finding the aforeſaid *chart* and letters ratified, do ratify and approve to the extent of our power the ſame grants for us, our heirs, and ſucceſſors, and we do grant and confirm to our beloved burgeſſes and others, the inhabitants of the aforeſaid town of Newport, their heirs and ſucceſſors, as the aforeſaid chart fully witneſſeth in itſelf: In teſtimony whereof, we have made theſe letters patent, witneſs ourſelf at Weſtminſter, the 4th day of November, in the twenty-ſeventh year of our reign. Powle.

The fine exacted, £1. 6s. 8d.
J. Bromley, Chancellor.

Executed by us { Matthew Carew and Henry Barkley. } Clerks.

AMOUNT of TONNAGE on the MONMOUTHSHIRE CANAL, for One Year,

Commencing September 9, 1798.

	Coal.	Pig Iron.	Bar Iron.	H. Blooms.	Timber.	Lime.	Sundries.
	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.
September Quarter	5,177 0	2,497 10	23 0	135 10	82 1	114 15	354 0
December - -	7,399 0	2,843 10	- -	145 0	114 0	35 10	812 5
March - - -	7,013 0	2,821 15	4 0	132 0	50 0	- -	354 5
June - - - -	8,502 0	2,996 10	5 10	161 0	42 5	3 0	227 10
	28,091 0	11,159 5	32 10	573 10	288 6	153 5	1,748 0

continued below.

CONTINUED.

	Ale & Porter.	Stones.	Caſtings.	Bark.	Iron Ore.	Slate.	Manure.
	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.
September Quarter	11 10	4,777 0	45 10	26 10	237 10	24 15	94 10
December - -	9 0	1,928 15	38 0	0 5	196 6	43 5	55 0
March - - -	- -	1,130 10	45 10	- -	643 0	- -	48 0
June - - - -	- -	4,517 0	7 0	36 0	879 0	13 10	28 0
	20 10	12,353 5	136 0	62 15	1,955 16	81 10	225 10

APPENDIX.—N°. 5.

Conſtitution of the Court of Sewers, in the Level of Wentloog; referred to Chapter 9. Communicated by the Rev. Mr. Evans.

THE juſtices or commiſſioners commonly ſo called, are nominated by the lord lieutenant of the county, and appointed and confirmed by the king, under the great ſeal, and by the duchy of Lancaſter, under the ſeal of that duchy; ſo that in this inſtance, relative to the levels in Monmouthſhire, there are duplicate commiſſions. The term of the commiſſion is limited to ten years, and ſometimes to *one* more, being a year of grace. In caſe of emergency or public diſturbance, it is conceived that the lord lieutenant may apply for a new commiſſion if requiſite.

The authority of this court is controuled only by the power of the court of king's bench, in caſe of an appeal.

The court of ſewers at their meeting, after the iſſuing and receipt of the commiſſion, ſwear themſelves into office, in purſuance of a mandate to one of them, commiſſioned to ſwear himſelf, by the aſſiſtance of the clerk of the ſewers, whoſe office is deemed very reſpectable. They firſt appoint their own clerk, who holds his office generally for life, or quam diu bene ſe geſſerit, and is recorder of the court. They appoint alſo two public expenditors; one for the level of *Wentloog*, the other for the two *diviſions of Caldecot*.

The office of the expenditors is to ſee that the walls are kept in good repair, and that the Rheens, or channels which convey the rain waters from the hills and levels, be clear of all obſtructions; and they are in this independent of the *ſurveyors* and *jurors*. To them are iſſued all orders from the court, relative to the taxes raiſed upon the levels, towards maintaining the walls.

The expence is defrayed in part by lands, which have been ſurrendered to the court by the original poſſeſſors, becauſe their quota, towards keeping in repair the portion of ſea wall originally appointed, exceeded the value of that property. The court is obliged to accept of ſuch ſurrenders, unleſs there be an *unity of poſſeſſion*; that is, when the proprietors ſo diſtreſſed have lands elſewhere, which are not liable to a level tax. In that caſe the court will not accept the ſurrender of land ſo conditioned, but can and does compel the proprietor, who has unity of poſſeſſion, to maintain his ſhare of ſea wall.

The two expenditors having received in court the order relative to the ſum aſſeſſed upon every acre, ſend their mandate to the collectors of the land tax, who deliver the monies contributed by virtue of ſuch mandate to the expenditors.

The aſſeſſment varies from two pence to ſix pence per acre; and the produce, after paying the expences of the ſeſſion, or meeting of the court, and the ſalaries of the expenditors and clerk of the ſewers, is applied to the maintenance of the ſea walls. The accounts of the expenditors are annually audited by the court.

The next officers in order are the ſurveyors of the leve of whom there is one in each pariſh; their buſineſs is to preſent to the court defects and omiſſions, which were overlooked or not noticed by the jurors, to repair thoſe defects and omiſſions, and bring in their accounts to the court. The *jurors* are about fifteen or more in Wentloog, three or four in every pariſh, and the ſame number, or thereabout, in each of the two diviſions of Caldecot. Their office is to examine, a fortnight before the ſpring ſeſſion, all the ſea walls and rheens, to take cognizance of the defects and obſtructions, and to preſent the ſame by their foreman to the court, in writing, which is read over by the clerk or his deputy in their preſence, and minutely canvaſſed by the commiſſioners. If there be any error in their preſentment, they have a right to retire and amend it, again to enter the court, and deliver it to the clerk, when the preſentment is read, and the jurors for each diviſion and level diſmiſſed in their turn.

In the autumn court, the accounts of the expenditors and ſurveyors are audited, and alſo the accounts of particular or private expenditors, appointed by the court to ſupply the defects of individuals who neglect the work, and are obliged to pay thoſe inferior expenditors a poundage of ten per cent. for the money by them advanced.

When

In caſe of any ſudden accident between the ſpring and autumn ſeſſion, a ſingle commiſſioner, or more, as the emergency requires, may appriſe the clerk of ſewers to cite the commiſſioners to examine the defects upon the ſpot, which is termed *to have a view*. The commiſſioners immediately iſſue their orders for repair, as ſoon as poſſible; and even during the ſeſſion, ſhould it appear that any difficulty aroſe with regard to the adjuſting of old defects, or the making of new rheens, or altering any thing which concerns the levels at large, or individuals in particular, any individual may, with the acquieſcence of the court, demand a view, and the caſe in queſtion is finally determined by the commiſſioners attending.

N° 6.—*Addition to Chapter* 10, *on Caerleon*; *referred to in p.* 80.

ETYMOLOGY OF CAERLEON, in a Note from Mr. OWEN.

AN Article reſpecting the derivation of the name of Caerlleon, will, I preſume, neceſſarily occur in your *Account of Monmouthſhire*, which it is not likely that you will refer to my conſideration, becauſe you may have judged it fully eſtabliſhed already, from the unanimous conſent of all writers who have touched upon the ſubject. But, ſir, I beg leave to ſubmit to your opinion, whether this point would have been thus ſettled, if thoſe who drew ſuch a concluſion, had been poſſeſſed of all the evidence, which ſhould reſult from the facts hereafter noticed?

It is ſtated, that this *Caerlleon upon the Uſke*, as alſo the *Caerlleon upon the Dee* (or Cheſter) are ſo called, from their being the *ſtations of Roman* LEGIONS; thus implying that LLEON is the Welſh modification, or corruption of the term Legion. If this derivation were well conſidered, it would appear rather improbable, even if there were no other grounds; for the places ſo called, had names, and I would preſume, thoſe identical names here mentioned; and were alſo places of ſtrength, pointed out by the eligibility of ſituation, before the Roman legions ever made their appearance: and beſides, why do we not find other places in the iſland receiving their appellations from a ſimilar cauſe?

The facts which I am about to ſtate in evidence are theſe: In the firſt place, the Welſh term uſed for a *Legion* is *Lleng*, a very common word in all the writings of the different ages; therefore, if the foregoing derivation were true, the name of the town would have been *Caer Lleng*; and which a critic, nay every body who knows the Welſh language, can point out to be very different in ſtructure from *Caer Lleon*, a word of three ſyllables. The next fact is, that the proper name of the town is *Caer Llion*, and not *Caer Lleon*; and it is always found ſo in our moſt ancient manuſcripts. The meaning of *Caer* is already well known to be, any incloſure of defence, or fortification, and in a ſecondary ſenſe, a city.

I ſhall proceed to ſtate, as a third fact, the import of *Llion* to be, ſtreams, torrents, or floodings, a term often uſed, in an aggregate ſenſe, for any great body of water; and it is derived from *Lli*, which is the ſingular form of the word, implying a ſtream or flood, in its popular acceptation. The laſt fact to be adduced is, the great propriety of the name for the ſituation of the town on the banks of the river Uſk; and probably the ſituation is, or was formerly on the extremity of the range of the tides, thus rendering the plural form of the appellation ſtill more deſcriptive, than if it were only (as it frequently has been uſed) on account of the vicinity of the river Uſk to the town. As to the laſt-mentioned circumſtance you are fully enabled to judge for yourſelf, which renders it needleſs for any remarks of mine; and as I have laid down the leading points, which make me diſſent from the commonly received etymology of *Caerlleon*, I commit them in this brief way to your judgment, to draw ſuch an inference as may ſeem conſiſtent with reaſon.

N° 7.—*Diſſertation on the Inſcription engraven on a Braſs Plate in the Church of Uſk, (referred to in p. 133.) containing Explanations by Dr. Wootton, the Rev. Mr. Evans, Vicar of St. Woolos, and a Letter on the ſame Subject from Mr. Owen.*

DR. WOOTTON was the firſt perſon who gave an explanation of this inſcription, which he conſidered as a mixture of Welſh and Latin, and an epitaph on a profeſſor of aſtronomy, and chief of a college of two hundred philoſophers, eſtabliſhed at Caerleon before the arrival of the Saxons. He thus read, explained, and tranſlated it:

Nole clodde yr Ethrod Caerlleon Advocad
Lawnhaëd Lundain a Barnwr Bedd
Breint aput Ty'n ev Aro, Ty Hauale
Selif Synwoeper * Suma Seadem Uſk Avall †
Kylche Dec & Kymmyde Doctor Kynmen, Leua loer i lawn O leue.

"Noli effodere Profeſſorem (Scientiarum) Caerlegionenſem, Advocatum digniſſimum Londinenſem, "& Judicem Sacri Privilegii (vel Cancellarium) apud Fanum Aaronis, & Fanum Julii (potius for-"ſan Avaloniae) Solomonem Aſtrologum, Summum vel Præpoſitum Civitatis Uſk, tenentis circiter "decem Commotes, Lunam lucidam in plenilunio lucentem."

This reading and explanation were adopted in the *Drych y Priv Oeſodd*, or Mirror of the Primitive Ages, by the Rev. Theophilus Evans, rector of Langammarch, in the county of Brecon, who was inferior to no perſon of his time in the knowledge of the Welſh tongue. The Rev. William Harris, prebendary of Landaff, in his obſervations on the Julia Strata, inſerted in the ſecond volume of the Archæologia, adopted the ſame explanation, although he gave a fac ſimile of the incription, which proved the fallacy of the interpretation, for the word which Wootton and Evans had read Caerlleon appears to be yarlleyn. Mr. Gough likewiſe, in his valuable edition of Camden, has on theſe reſpectable authorities inſerted the ſame reading, accompanied with the ſame fac ſimile.

Having diſcovered, on comparing this fac ſimile with the inſcription, that the form of the letters was not exactly repreſented, I procured another, by means of a ſlip of paper laid on the plate, and rubbed with black lead, an engraving of which is here annexed. Mr. Evans at my requeſt examined the inſcription, was of opinion that it was wholly Welſh, and favoured me with the following explanation:

"The Inſcription on the Braſs Plate in the Church of Uſk, as it is engraved, and to be read letter for letter.

Nole clode yr ethrode yar lleyn
Advocade llawnhade llundeyn
A barnon rhede breynta pentræ
ty nevaro ty havalie
Seliff ſunnoeir ſinn
a ſe adam uſke eval kuſke
Deke kummode doctor kymmen
lle va loe i llawn oleue.

"Here follows the explanation in Welſh, as it would have been written after the time of the dubious date of the inſcription, before our orthography received a new turn in the time of Queen Eliſabeth by the tranſlators of our Bible into Welſh:

1 Yno le cloddai yr ethrodjar lleyn,
2 Advocâd llawnhâd llundeyn.
3 A baruon ar hŷd dreintiau prentrau
4 Ty' Nevaro ty Havalie;
5 Selif ſynwyr ſenn
6 Y ſydd oddi am Uſke, y vel cyſcai
7 Deg cymmod, doctor cymmen,
8 Ile bo lloe ei llawn o leuen.

This

* "Synwoepr, or Synwybr, a word compounded of Syniau and Wybyr, i. e. Cœlos contemplari. The South Britons and Corniſh pronounced it Eobr or Wybr. See Llwyd."

† "Gaval i. e. Services due from tenants to their lords, in the old Britiſh called Kylche, which name they retain at St. David's to this day."

Fac-simile of the Inscription in the Church of Usk

"This tranſlation is extremely cloſe, and almoſt the original idiom, from which in this inſtance there ſhould be no deviation.

1 In that place was buried the teacher, Lord, learned.
2 Advocate of full competency of London,
3 and Baron of the liberties of the villages
4 of Ty' Nevaro ty Havalie;
5 a Solomon of diſcreet counſel
6 around Uſk, ſo far as ſleep
7 ten commots, an eloquent doctor
8 where the moon has her full lustres.

(Letter from Mr. Owen, containing another Explanation.)

"SIR,

"I BEG leave to return the *fac-ſimile* of the inſcription in the church of Uſk, which you were pleaſed to ſend to me, with my attempt to explain it.

"It may be proper to obſerve in the firſt place, that copies of the inſcription, leſs faithful than this, are already in the hands of the public, accompanied with ſuch gueſſes, with reſpect to the meaning, as the writers were enabled to procure.

"You will perceive, ſir, in the ſequel, that my explanation of the Uſk inſcription differs greatly from that given by Dr. Wootton, and I regret that it is equally at variance with that furniſhed by the Rev. Mr. Evans of Caerau; ſuch a diverſity alone is ſufficient to ſhew the difficulty of aſcertaining the true meaning of this piece of antiquity. There is however one point, admitting of no diſpute, which is, that this mutilated copy affords ſufficient evidence to prove that the original inſcription was in the *Welſh* tongue, as appears from ſeveral words correctly written, agreeably to a particular orthography in uſe about the period when it ſeems to have been executed. There is equal certainty, I think, that it contains eight lines of poetry, each couplet beginning with the large initial letters.

"You did me the favour of ſhewing a communication from a correſpondent, * who reports, that the original inſcription was on a ſtone, which was ſent to London; and the preſent one on braſs is a *copy*, executed there, and ſent by the deſire of parties concerned, to be put up in the church inſtead of the other. Mr. Harris likewiſe affirms, that this was a copy of a more ancient inſcription. Independently of thoſe accounts, and indeed before I had heard of them, I perceived, as I thought, indiſputable marks that the preſent inſcription was executed by a ſtranger to the language, which it is not likely would have been the caſe in the firſt inſtance; and, if it had been entruſted then to ſuch a perſon, when what was meant to be recorded was known to thoſe concerned, a performance ſo incorrect would not have been ſuffered to be put up; but the miſtakes in copying an old inſcription defaced by time, no one could well point out. I might add further, had any man acquainted with the language been the engraver, he would have executed it according to ſome ſtile of orthography, which would be legible to me, as well as the ſeveral thouſand pieces written about the period when it was done, and which I have been obliged to peruſe, in collecting materials for the Welſh dictionary, now nearly completed, after fifteen years of cloſe application.

"I ſhall here exhibit the inſcription as it ſtands on the plate, pointing out ſuch words as are correctly written, according to a known ſyſtem of Welſh orthography, by capital letters, and by italics ſuch words as are tolerably explicit, thus:

Nole clode YR ethrode YAR LLEYN *aduo cade* LLAWN *hade* LLUNDEYN
A barnour bede BREYNT a pile ty nevaro ty hauabe
Seliff ſun o eir ſinna ſeadam yſke eval kuſke
Deke *kummode doctor* KYMMEN llena loe i LLAWN oleue.

"Here we find eight words written correctly, according to the dialect of *Gwent* in the fifteenth century; it is therefore fair to preſume, that the whole of the original inſcription was equally exact. The diviſions between ſome of the words are clear; but in other inſtances they appear confuſed, which is a conſiderable ſource of difficulty, when accompanied by greater ambiguities. In old writings, the *m, n, u, w, in, iu, ni, ui, iv, vi, nn, nu, un, im, mi,* and the like, have not a marked difference, by which they can be defined in many caſes, otherwiſe than by the meaning of the text; but when ſuch other letters

* The Rev. Mr. Jones of the Piſtill.

letters as accompany them are clearly made out, there ſeldom ariſes any difficulty in diſcriminating what they ſhould be alſo in reading Welſh; a ſtranger to the language, however, would be liable to commit many errors in copying, by confounding moſt of the ſquare letters, and this ſeems to have been the caſe with reſpect to the plate under conſideration.

"From the appearance of the inſcription, as above exemplified, you are enabled, ſir, to judge, what parts of it are to be rectified, or filled up by the imagination; and you will likewiſe ceaſe to wonder at the difference between former attempts, my interpretation, and the explanation given by the reverend Mr. *Evans* of Cacrau, which you were pleaſed, by his permiſſion, to ſend for my peruſal. To this gentleman's general erudition, and his particular acquaintance with Welſh literature, a large circle of his countrymen bears honourable teſtimony; and I beg leave to take this opportunity of giving my aſſent to ſuch a ſentiment, and to applaud the patriotic bias of his taſte and reſearches.

"I now come to the difficult part of my taſk, the reſtoring of the Uſk inſcription to its true reading. In ſo doing, I ſhall be guided, in the firſt place, by the peculiar orthography of the Gwentian dialect, which from the proofs already mentioned, ſhould be particularly attended to.

"The moſt popular metre in uſe about the time of the writing, is, in the next place, a guide to be followed with conſiderable reliance; but at the ſame time ſelecting that, to which the words will beſt apply in their preſent form, and with the ſlighteſt alterations. The one fixed upon to anſwer ſuch intention is, the CYHYDEZ WASTAD, or the *even metricity*, thus defined in the Bardic Inſtitutes: "the "characteriſtics of the even metricity are, a verſe of eight ſyllables, and the length of the ſtanza to be "from four to ſixteen verſes, poſſeſſing the general principle of the canons. This metre is extremely "free, and aſſumes, better than any other, the rhythmical harmony of the lines, and the verſes flow "with regular accent. And it is a moſt ſuitable metre in compoſitions of love and elegy; and is more "univerſally uſed than any other, except the ſmooth metricity in compound metres." Having traced out the plan, which appears to me moſt rational, I accordingly give the following as a probable reading of the inſcription:

"Nota clod yr ethrod yar lleyn *
Advo cud † llawn hwde llundeyn
A barnwni bed breynt ap llyd ‡
Yn e varn a fu henefyd §
Selyf ſynn o eir hwn a fu
A daiar wyſk ei wal kyſku
Dewr kymmode doeth a chymmen ‖
Llen a lluc i llawn oleuen'

"The meaning of which is:

Mark this object of fame, to the diſgrace of the blade ¶:
were he not covered London would be in difficulty.
Then let us conſecrate the grave of Braint ** ſon of Llydd ††,
who in judgement was an elder ††:
Solomon, profound of word, was he;
and the ſod of Iſca his bed of ſleep!
Ardently he would reconcile the eloquent, and the wiſe ‡‡;
the clergy and the laity would be fully illumined."

* Another reading: *Neut clâd yr athro dayar lleyn!* Ah, is not the grave of the great teacher the ſod of the vale!

† Or, *Advo câd*, were there a battle again.

‡ Or, *A bardoni beird breynt ay lles*, and the lore of the bards of privilege and their joy.

§ Or, *Yn ei varw ſy en baſſes*, in his death is become their misfortune.

‖ Or, *Teg y kymmod* doctor *kymmen*, fairly the eloquent doctor reconciled.

A free reading, according to theſe notes, would be—Ah, behold the grave of the great teacher is the ſod of the vale! When a battle took place London felt embarraſſed; and the ſong of the bards of ancient lore and their joy, all vaniſh through his death: He who was like Solomon, profound of word, on Iſca's banks his couch of ſleep! Fairly the eloquent doctor reconciled diſputes: Clergy and laity were fully enlightened by him.

¶ The original word for this is *Llain*, which ſignifies any thing ſtretched out flatly; a blade; alſo a flat ſtang of land; a vale.

** The meaning of this word is *privilege*; but as it has been uſed for a proper name of men, I have taken it in that ſenſe, otherwiſe no name occurs as the object of the inſcription.

†† Theſe parts of the original are ſo obſcured, that it may be made any thing elſe of the ſame length.

‡‡ I have preſerved an ambiguous form, like the original, in this line; for if it were written and pointed;—Ardently he would reconcile, the eloquent and the wiſe; the epithets eloquent and wiſe, might be applied to him who is deſcribed as the reconciler.

N° 8.—*A true Coppie of an antient memorable Treatiſe of Record touchinge the Progenie & Deſcent of the honorable Name & Family of the Herberts, by Commiſſion from E. 4. An° Dom.* 1460;—*referred to in p.* 141.

WHEREAS hyt pleaſyd the Mageſtye of God to rayſe & to exaulte unto y^s^ Kyngdome of England our dread Sofferaigne Lord by ye Grace of God Edward ye fowerth of that name after ye Conqweſt by rightfull tytell and inherytance to ye Crowne. Soe hyt pleaſyd him the ſayd Kynge in like ways to rayſe to awthorytyes caullinges & dygnytyes ſoch chyefeſt men as weyre partakers of his Trowbells & warrys againſt his aduerſaryes. And amongyſt oders that he exawltyd he creatyd William Hebert (who was before Lord of Ragland) Earl of Pembroke & honowryd hym & made hym Knyght of the moſt nobyll order of ye Gartyer, after wch creatyon the Kynge his Mageſtye commandyd the ſaid Earl & S^r^. Richard Herbert hys Broder to take theyr ſyrnamys after theyr fyrſt Progenytor Herbert Fitzroy & to foregoe the Bryttiſh order & manner whoſe vſage ys to caulle euery man by hys fader grandfader & Greate grandfader hys name. And for thys cauſe the Herawldry of England diſputyd amongyſt theymſelfys towchinge the pedegree & ſtocke of the ſayd Earl & Knyght & could not agree uppon the Trowth theyreof. And theyreof yt pleaſyd the ſayd Kynge hys Mageſty under hys Mageſtye hys ſeale & wrytyng of Comyſſion dyrected vnto mee Jenan y^e^ ſonne of Rytherch y^e^ ſonne of Jenan Lloyd of the Countye of Cardigan Eſq^r^ togedyr with the ltre of y^e^ ſayd Honowrabell Earle giuinge me Awthorytye by vyrtew of the ſayd comyſſion to cyte & caulle before me into the Caſtle of Pembroke the fowre cheyffeſt men of ſkyll within the Prouynce of Sowth Wallys whoſe names are theyſe vizt. Howell the ſonne of Dauid the ſonne of Jenan the ſonne of Rys. 2 Howell Swrdwall. 3 Jenan Deulwyn. 4 Jenan Brecheva. And ſo by vyuformye conſent by ye authorytye of the ſayd Comyſſyon & by ye commandment gyuen vs for to ſend vnto the Kyng his Mageſtye the trewe pedegree ſtock & lynadge of y^e^ ſaid Earle & Knight wee aſſemblyd ourſelues aulle fiue togeyder with many oder learnyd men preſſent at the Caſtell of Pembroke this day being the 12 daye of ye moneth of Auguſt in the yeare of Lord God 1460. And after long conſultation by vnyuerſaulle conſent & aſſent & beyng lead by the awthoryte & warrant of the Bookys of old Doctours, anncyent wrytyngs, Records of Cowrts, Barons Hyſtoryes, & Warrys of Prynces, Bookys of Remembrans founde in the anncyent Abbeye of Strata Florida the Booke of Pedegrees of Howell Moythey of Caſtell Odwyn Eſq. the Rowls of Morgan Abbot & many ſoche oder Bookys & warrantes of awthorytye And by the Awthorytie of our owne arte & ſyence Haue wrytten this p ſent Treatyſe wch wee ſend togeyder wth ye Pedegree of the ſayd Honowrabell Earle & Knyght vnto ye Kynge hys Mageſtye in fowre ſeuerall languadges vizt. in latyne Bryttiſh French & Engliſh, Eache Coppye agreeing word for word. And ſoe wee moſt humbly take our leauys die et loco predicto.

The Pedegree is thus.

The ſaid honowrabell Earle ys namy'd William Herbert a nobell Knyght y^e^ ſonne of William the ſonne of Thomas the ſonne of Gwilym the ſonne of Jenkyn the ſonne of Adam the ſonne of Reignold the ſonne of Peter the ſonne of Herbert the ſonne of Herbert a Nobell Lord dyſcendyd of the Royall Blood of ye Crowne of England: for he was naturall ſonne to King Henry the fyrſt ſonne to William ye Conqueror which Herbert had his habytation in S^t^. Michaell hys Caſtell in ye forreſt of Danys And Peter ſonne of the ſayd Herbert Fitz Herbert had by hys Mother beyng ye Dawghter of Milo Fitz Walter giuen vnto hym the Lordſhip of Betſley & he marryed the dawghter of Blethyn Broadſpeare by whoſe bodye a ſonne namyd Reignold Lord of Llanllowel who married Margaret the Dawghter of Si^r^. John Walſhe K^t^. by whom he had yſſewe Addam Lord of Llanllowel y^t^ marr Xtian Dawghter and Heyre to Gwaryn Ddu (or the black) Lord of Llandeylo by whoſe body he had

yſſewe two ſonnes vit^z S^r. Thomas Adam K^t. and Jenkyn Adam Eſq Lord of Wrenddu wch Jenkyn marryed Wenllan daughter to S^r. Aron ap Bledry K^t. & by her had a ſonne namyd Gwylym Lord of Wernddu in Gwentland wch Gwylm marryed Wenllian daughter to Howell Vaughan ſonne to Howell ſonne to Jerwerth deſcended of the Kyngs of Gwent by whom he had yſſewe fowre ſonnes vizt. John Dauid Howell and Thomas wch Thomas ſonne of Gwilym of Perthhir Eſq married Maud daughter and heyres of S^r. John Morley Knight & by her had yſſewe fowre ſonnes vit^z Howell Philip Jenan & Sr William Thomas K^t. & fiue Daughters whereof one was married to Gwylym Dauid of Rhiwpperrey Eſq the ſeco nd to Phillip Riccard of Tyleglas the third to Gwnter of S^t. Silin by Vſke & the oder two daughters Dyed younge And the ſayd S^r. Willyam Thomas Knight married Gwladys daughter to S^r. Dauid Gam K^t. ſonne to Llewelyn Sonne to Howell Vaughan Sonne to HOWELL Sonne to GWION SAYS Sonne to TRAHERNE Sonne to GWYON Sonne to BLETHEYN Sonne to MAYNYRCH Lord of Brecknock which ſaid S^r. WILLIAM THOMAS by the foreſayd GWLADYS had yſſewe the foreſayd nobell William Herbert Lord of Raglan now Earle of Pembroke & S^r. Richard Herbert of Coldbrooke his broder & two Doughters Viz^t.———wife to S^r. Henry Wogan & Elizabeth wife to S^t. Henry Stradling K^nts. whom God bleſſe and theyr poſteritye.

Collected & ſett downe by good awthorytye by us

Jenan ap Rytherch ap Jenan Lloyd Eſq.
Howell ap Dauid ap Jenan ap Rys gent.

Howell Swrdwall
Jenan Deulwyn } Bardes
Jenan Brechva

N° 9.—*Addition to Chapter* 16, *p.* 153.

ON the authority of a ſepulchral inſcription, in the church of Lanſanfraed, I have conſidered Philip as the eldeſt ſon and heir of Thomas ap Gwillim. But Edmonſon, in his Baronagium, p. 263, does not even mention Philip; and calls ſir William ap Thomas, who was ſeated at Raglan caſtle, the firſt ſon; and in the pedigree, inſerted in the laſt number, Howell, from whom the Powells of Perthir are deſcended, is named firſt. It is not eaſy to reconcile theſe diſcordant accounts; and it muſt be confeſſed that there is a conſiderable diſagreement in the genealogies of the Herberts, preſerved in the Heralds' office, and thoſe in the poſſeſſion of different branches of the family. All that is certainly known is, that Thomas ap Gwillim had ſeveral ſons; ſir William obtained Raglan caſtle; Howell was ſeated at Perthir; and Philip at Lanſanfraed. Edmonſon mentions Evan as the anceſtor of the Gwyns and Raglans of Glamorganſhire; and David, from whom the Hughſes of Killough, and the Gwithens of Gwent are deſcended.

The deſcendants of Philip ap Thomas, who were ſeated at Lanſanfraed, aſſumed, in 1553, the name of Jones.

The pedigrees differ no leſs in reſpect to the four ſons of Gwillim ap Jenkin, the father of this Thomas, who was ſeated at Lanſanfraed. According to Edmonſon, his four ſons were, 1. Thomas, 2. John or Jenkin, from whom the Progers were deſcended, 3. David, 4. Howell. But in the pedigree, inſerted in the former chapter, as well as in the genealogy of the family of Jones, in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Jones of Clytha, and publiſhed in the Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, Jenkin was the eldeſt, David the ſecond, Howell the third, and Thomas the fourth. We need not, therefore, wonder that the rival houſes of Werndee and Perthir ſhould diſpute concerning priority of deſcent.

N° 10.—*Inſcription in the Chancel of Lanarth Church; referred to in p.* 158.

Sacred
to the Memory of
ELIZABETH
Wife of WILLIAM JONES, Eſquire,
of CLYTHA HOUSE in this PARISH,
who requeſting that ſhe might not be buried in any Church,
lies interred in the adjoining Church Yard.
She was the laſt ſurviving Iſſue and Heir at Law of
Sir William Morgan of Tredegar
in this County, K. B.
by the Right Honourable the Lady Rachel Cavendiſh,
eldeſt daughter to William Second Duke of Devonſhire;
Her Goodneſs and her Worth
were ſo eminently conſpicuous,
that the moſt finiſhed monumental eulogy,
would vainly endeavour to diſplay them.
Yet as ſhe always modeſtly ſhrunk from obſervation,
and ſtudiouſly ſtrove to conceal her various Endowments;
Juſtice to her Memory requires,
that ſome, tho' a very imperfect, ſketch
of her Character be here attempted:
She was bleſt with every hereditary Virtue
of the moſt illuſtrious Houſe of Cavendiſh:
meek, humble, patient,
generous, friendly, noble;
Happily adorn'd with a moſt extenſive Genius,
her Knowledge was vaſt and uncommon:
In Poetry, Muſic, Botany, and all the polite Arts,
She excell'd;
as her Manuſcripts abundantly teſtify:
To enumerate her Virtues were impoſſible;
She was, in ſhort,
Purity and Innocence itſelf:
for if ever thoſe Virtues were perſonified,
they were in her.
An utter Stranger to every ſpecies of Detraction,
She never ſpoke of her neighbour, but with praiſe and commendation.
With a Heart ever bleeding at the Diſtreſſes of others,
the great buſineſs and delight of her Life was
"To do good, and to diſtribute."
Being too good to continue any longer in this World.
She receiv'd with Reſignation, her Summons from its Miſeries,
to the Reward of a Glorious Immortality,
on the 14th day of January, 1787,
in the 58th Year of her Age.

This

This Marble was erected,
and this Inſcription written
by her moſt afflicted and moſt grateful
Huſband,
as a feeble Effort to do ſome Juſtice
to the Memory of the beſt of Wives,
and faintly to expreſs that ſenſe of her Goodneſs
ſo indelibly engraven
on his Heart.

Dear honored Shade! If Angels e'er beſtow
A thought on what is acted here below;
With pitying eye this weak attempt ſurvey,
The laſt ſad tribute which thy Friend can pay.
Thou beſt of Women! once my greateſt pride,
Dearer to me than all the World beſide;
If various Knowledge ever claim'd regard,
If meek-eyed Patience ever met reward,
If e'er the milder Virtues were approv'd,
If ſpotleſs Honor ever was belov'd,
If Mortals may departed Worth revere,
Still let thy Huſband ſhed the ſilent tear;
Still let him hug thy Image to his heart,
From which it never, never ſhall depart.
Yet, yet awhile, and then 'twill be my lot,
To join thy duſt in yon ſequeſter'd ſpot.
Mean time, as flowers ſpontaneous round it bloom,
May white-robed Innocence bedeck thy tomb;
May ſolemn requiems float upon the air,
For ever ſweet to liſtening ſorrow's ear;
While I, obſervant of thy virtues, ſtrive
Like thee to ſuffer, and like thee to live.

N° 11.—*Omiſſion in Chapter* 17, *on the Population of Abergavenny.*

The population of Abergavenny exceeds 2,000 ſouls. The average number of births for the laſt ten years is from 50 to 60, and of deaths from 60 to 70; the exceſs of the burials over the births ariſes from the number of diſſenters, who baptize their children according to their own cuſtom, but have them interred in the church.

N° 12.—*Addition to Chapter* 19.

Churchyard, in his account of the tombs in the church of Abergavenny, deſcribes a ſuperb monument which once ſtood in the middle of the church, though then dilapidated. He informs us that the principal effigies was removed to a window, and ſeveral of the other figures, carved in ſtone, were placed in a porch.

" Amid the church lord Haſtings lay,
" Lord Aborgaynie than:
" And ſince his death remov'd away,
" By fine device of man:
" And layd within a windowe right *,
" Full flat on ſtonie wall:
" Where now he doth in open ſight,
" Remaine to people all.
" The windowe is well made and wrought,
" A coſtly work to ſee:
" In which his noble armes are though
" Of purpoſe there to bee.
" A ragged ſleeve, and ſixe red birds,
" Is portray'd in the glaſſe:
" His wife hath there, her left arm bare,
" It ſeems her ſleeve it was,
" That hangs about his neck full fine,
" Right ore a purple weede:
" A robe of that ſame colour too,
" The ladie weares indeed.
" Under his legges a lyon red,
" His armes are rare and ritch:
" A harrold that could ſhewe them well,
" Can blaſe not many ſitch.
" Sixe lyons white, the ground fayre blew,
" Three flower-de-luces gold;
" The ground of them is red of hew,
" And goodly to behold.
" But note a greater matter now,
" Upon his tomb in ſtone,
" Were fourteene lords that knees did bow †
" Unto this lord alone.
" Of this rare work a porch is made,
" The barrons there remaine
" In good old ſtone, and auncient trade,
" To ſhew all ages plaine,
" What honour was to Haſtings due,
" What honour he did win:
" What armes he gave, and ſo to blaze,
" What lord had Haſtings bin."

It is the general opinion at Abergavenny, derived from long tradition, that this ſumptuous monument was placed in a niche under the moſt eaſterly window of the Herbert chapel, and that the effigies of lord Haſtings was removed to the north window of the Lewis chapel; it is ſuppoſed to be the ſame as the recumbent figure in wood, which I have deſcribed in p. 192, and which ſtill remains in that ſituation. But it appears to me improbable, that a rude figure in wood ſhould be placed as the principal effigies, on a ſumptuous monument of ſtone, adorned with figures in relievo; and in p. 193 I have given my reaſons for ſuppoſing it to repreſent John de Haſtings. The monument deſcribed by Churchyard, was probably that of Lawrence de Haſtings, earl of Pembroke, and lord of Abergavenny; a puiſſant peer, who, according to Dugdale, " in 15 Edward 3, was at that great feaſt and juſting in " London, made by king Edward, for love of the counteſs of Saliſbury, as 'tis ſaid. And in 16 " Edward 3, attending the king into Britanny, with LX men at arms, (himſelf accounted) two ban- " nerets, twelve knights, forty-five eſquires, and an hundred archers on horſeback, till the next en- " ſuing year." Lawrence was buried in this church; for his widow Agnes, daughter of Roger Mortimer, earl of March, " left to the priory of Bergavenny, where her huſband lay interred, a ſuite of " veſtments of green cloth of gold." Baronage, p. 576—7.

Three of the coats of arms mentioned by Churchyard were quartered by Lawrence de Haſtings: 1. Or, a manche gules, Haſtings. 2. Barry argent and azure, an orle of martlets gules, Valence. 3. Azure, 6 lioncels rampant, or, Leybourne, for his mother Julian, daughter and heireſs of Thomas de Leybourne.

Mr.

* " In the windowe now he lyes." † " Some ſay this great lord was called Bruce and not Haſtings, but moſt do hold opinion he was called Haſtings."

Mr. Dinwoody having at my requeſt examined the porch of the church, favoured me with the following communication: Twelve ſtanding figures carved in ſtone, about two feet in height, are placed on the ſide walls in the inſide of the north porch; each bears a ſhield, but ſo much whitewaſhed that no traces of arms are viſible; on the front are four others of the ſame ſize, and apparently of the ſame date, two of which bear ſhields, and the other two ſeem to be females. It is therefore probable, that the fourteen figures with ſhields, are the fourteen barons mentioned by Churchyard.

N° 13.—*Tranſlation of a Grant in the Church Cheſt of Lantilio, or Landeilo Pertholly, Monmouthſhire; referred to in p. 205.*

JASPER, brother and uncle of kings *, duke of Bedford, earl of Pembroke and lord of Abergavenny, greeting, BE IT KNOWN that we the aforeſaid duke have given, granted, and by theſe preſents have confirmed, to all and ſingular the pariſhioners dwelling and inhabiting within the borders and limits of the pariſhes of Lantillio Pertholly, chapel and Lanwenarth cit. Uſk, in our lordſhip of Abergavenny, (that is to ſay) that the aforeſaid pariſhioners, dwellers, and inhabitants, and every of their heirs for the time of their being there, ſhall have liberty of our foreſt of Moyl, of paſture and water for all their goods and *ocn* † chattels there feeding for ever; and alſo to gather dry woods fall by winds, for their own proper uſe, in and upon our whole foreſt, without the diſturbance, interruption and moleſtation of forreſters, or any of our officers whatſoever for the time being, (except all manner of growing woods, underwoods, feedings of pigs, wild honey, ſtray cattle, wayffs, eſcheats, and all other ‡ emoluments belonging from old time to our foreſt aforeſaid, which are reſerved to us and our heirs for ever.) To HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforeſaid libertys and premiſes, to the aforeſaid pariſhioners, dwellers, and inhabitants, and their heirs (except as before excepted by us and our heirs) for ever, paying therefore yearly the ſum of twenty ſhillings ſterling to us and our heirs on the feaſt of Annunciation of the bleſſed Virgin Mary, and on the feaſt of St. Michael the Archangel, in two equal portions; and if it happens that the ſaid ſum of twenty ſhillings, or any part thereof, ſhall be behind and unpaid for the ſpace of one month, after any of the feaſts whereon it ought to be paid, it may be lawful for us or our heirs, or any of our ſtewards, to diſtrain in the three places within the borders and limits of the aforeſaid pariſhes of Lantillio, Chapel, and Lanwenarth Cit: whomſoever we think proper; and we the aforeſaid duke and our heirs have truly warranted the aforeſaid premiſes & libertys to the aforeſaid pariſhioners, dwellers, & inhabitants for the time of their being there (except as before excepted) againſt all people for ever: IN WITNESS whereof, we have granted theſe our letters patent. Teſt: Walter Herbert, knight, ſteward of our court of Abergavenny, John Thomas, eſquire, of the ſame court, Morgan ap David ap Elice and others, dated at Abergavenny, ſealed with the ſeal of the chancellor of our lordſhip there, the tenth day of May, in the eighth year of the reign of king Henry the ſeventh.

This is a true tranſlation of the letter patent, granted by the within named Jaſper lord of Abergavenny, to the within mentioned pariſhioners, &c.. Examined and compared with the original, (which is now depoſited with Mrs. Frances Morgan of Trawoſcoed in the pariſh of Lanwenarth) at a pariſh meeting held in the pariſh of Lanwenarth, the 31ſt day of December, 1748. By us

Evan Jones, curate there,	Henry Lewis,	Walter Edwards,	Thomas Phillips,
William Williams,	John Jones,	John Price,	James Jones.
William Lewis,	Benjamin Jones,	Joſhua Price,	

Truly copied and compared the 19th February, 1770,
By me James Jones.

* Jaſper was half brother to king Henry the 6th, and uncle to king Henry the 7th.

† Thus in the copy of the tranſlation.

‡ The word in the original ſignifies royalties, which is here rendered emoluments.

N° 14.—*Additions to Chapter* 30.

Fac-ſimile of the Seal of the Abbey of Grace Dieu, mentioned in p. 289.

Account of Caeluch.

ABOUT three quarters of a mile from Landeilo, is the ancient and pictureſque manſion of Caeluch, or Kyllough, now a farm houſe; it was formerly the ſeat of the family of Hughs, deſcended, according to Edmonſon *, from David, ſon of Thomas ap Gwillim, and brother of ſir William ap Thomas. To this family, I find in the archives of the duchy of Lancaſter, numerous grants of lands from the lords of White Caſtle. It afterwards came either by inheritance or marriage to the family of Powell, the heireſs of which eſpouſed, according to tradition †, Digby, lord Gerard of Bromley in Kent, who retained poſſeſſion of this eſtate during his life time. On his death it was claimed by James, third duke of Hamilton, in virtue of his marriage with Eliſabeth, daughter of lord Gerard, by a ſecond wife. A law ſuit enſued, in which the duke of Hamilton was caſt, and the eſtate adjudged to the heirs of the Powell family. It was afterwards purchaſed by Mr. Medlicott, agent to the duke of Beaufort, and ſold by his ſon to the late Mr. Lewis.

The houſe contains ſeveral remains of former magnificence, particularly in the painted glaſs windows, emblazoned with arms, and ornamented with figures; among which, are thoſe of St. George and the dragon, not ill executed. On the wall of the parlour is a braſs plate carved with the Medlicott arms; quarterly gules and azure, per feſs indented; three lions rampant argent, with this inſcription, Thomas Medlicott Arm. obiit, 21 Julii, 1737, Ætatis ſuæ, 78. In an upper apartment is a curious old oak chimney-piece, on which is carved the crucifixion, with groteſque ornaments, and rude figures of ſaints and angels; in the center is a ſhield of arms ‡, with the date of 1625.

N° 15.—*Addition to Chapter* 31, *on Monmouth.*

MR. Owen Tudor, bookſeller of Monmouth, poſſeſſes a ſmall collection of pictures, among which one deſerves particular notice; it is a Holy Family by Franceſchino, one of the laſt of the Bologneſe ſchool, in which the painter has happily imitated the ſtyle of Corregio, in the figure of Joſeph and the Madonna of Ludovico Caracci in the St. John, and of Dominichino in the child. Sir Joſhua Reynolds was much pleaſed with this picture. This painting was brought to England by the Rev. Mr. Elſton, who reſided at Rome, and had a chapel in Little Wild Street, London.

* Baronagium, p. 263.

† According to one account, lord Gerard had by Miſs Powell, a ſon, who reſided at Caeluch, but died without iſſue before his father: according to another account, lord Gerard had no iſſue by Miſs Powell, but retained poſſeſſion of her eſtate until his death. On ſearching the Heralds' office, I could not diſcover that Digby, lord Gerard, had any ſon. He eſpouſed ſecondly, Eliſabeth, daughter of Charles lord Gerard, of Brandon in Suffolk, and earl of Macclesfield, dying in 1711 without male iſſue, the title of baron Gerard of Bromley became extinct; but the duke of Hamilton was created duke of Brandon.

‡ Apparently charged with a lion rampant in chief, three greyhounds currant in baſe, and a palm tree on the dexter ſide in pale. A view of the houſe, from a drawing taken by Mr. John Tudor, is given on the ſame plate with thoſe of Werndee, Perthîr, and Treowen.

N° 16.—PAPERS

relative to the

TRADE OF CHEPSTOW,

(referred to in p. 360.)

(Communicated by the late THOMAS IRVING, Esq. Inspector General of the Exports and Imports.)

The NUMBER of VESSELS, and their TONNAGE, with the NUMBER of MEN usually employed (including their repeated Voyages) which entered and cleared Coastways in the Port of *CHEPSTOW*, and in the Member Port of *NEWPORT*, from 1791 to 1797 inclusive.

CHEPSTOW.

Years.	INWARDS.			Years.	OUTWARDS.		
	Vess.	Tons.	Men.		Vess.	Tons.	Men.
1791	270	15,898	1,379	1791	457	26,378	2,465
1792	412	25,152	2,281	1792	653	38,102	3,600
1793	306	18,723	2,253	1793	560	31,923	3,016
1794	389	23,528	2,166	1794	518	32,803	3,217
1795	372	23,080	1,981	1795	389	24,866	2,178
1796	463	27,813	2,303	1796	431	29,352	2,497
1797	503	29,205	2,732	1797	468	31,016	2,610

NEWPORT.

Years.	INWARDS.			Years.	OUTWARDS.		
	Vess.	Tons.	Men.		Vess.	Tons.	Men.
1791	202	10,580	898	1791	247	12,349	1,051
1792	188	7,414	732	1792	304	13,734	1,183
1793	189	9,185	827	1793	291	14,507	1,189
1794	190	9,305	841	1794	258	12,776	1,075
1795	295	12,190	1,023	1795	243	11,607	990

*** No return from this Port later than 1795.

The NUMBER of VESSELS, with their TONNAGE and NUMBER of MEN, including their repeated Voyages, that have entered Inwards and cleared Outwards, at the Port of *CHEPSTOW*, from 1791 to 1797.

INWARDS.

BRITISH VESSELS.	1791.			1792.			1793.			1794.			1795.			1796.			1797.		
	Vess.	Tons.	Men.	Vess.	Tons.	Men.	Vess.	Tons.	Men.	Vess.	Tons.	Men.	Vess.	Tons.	Men.	Vess.	Tons.	Men.	Vess.	Tons.	Men.
Denmark	2	310	–	9	1,119	63															
Russia	3	709	–	9	2,267	97	5	1,008	50	4	837	44	1	266	11						
Prussia	2	308	–	5	1,171	50															
Portugal	2	180	–	2	180	12	–	–	–	1	71	6									
Spain	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	191	15									
Ireland	3	247	–	6	616	36	8	731	50	36	3,825	229	20	1,998	114	38	4,073	241	23	2,706	151
States of America	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	469	20												
TOTAL of BRITISH SHIPPING	12	1,754	–	31	5,353	258	15	2,208	120	42	4,924	294	21	2,264	125	38	4,073	241	23	2,706	151
FOREIGN VESSELS.																					
Denmark	3	360	–	2	320	19	1	180	11	–	–	–	2	410	24	–	–	–	2	320	23
States of America	2	338																			
Spain	1	130																			
TOTAL of FOREIGN SHIPPING	6	828	–	2	320	19	1	180	11	–	–	–	2	410	24	–	–	–	2	320	23

OUTWARDS.

BRITISH VESSELS.	1791.			1792.			1793.			1794.			1795.			1796.			1797.		
	Vess.	Tons.	Men.	Vess	Tons.	Men.	Vess.	Tons.	Men.	Vess.	Tons	Men.	Vess.	Tons	Men.	Vess.	Tons	Men.	Vess.	Tons	Men.
Russia	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	235	13												
Prussia	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	303	12												
Portugal	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	120	9									
[illegible]	117	8,498	–	120	9,961	559	88	7,360	476	115	8,119	578	89	7,224	439	118	9,791	599	91	7,434	439
Colonies	–	–	–	–		–	1	269	13												
[illegible]	1	31																			
TOTAL of BRITISH SHIPPING	118	8,529	–	120	9,961	559	91	8,167	514	116	8,239	587	89	7,224	439	118	9,791	599	91	7,43	439
FOREIGN VESSELS.																					
Denmark	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	410	24	–	–	–	3	320	23
Portugal	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	180	11	1	120	9									
States of America	1	199																			
Holland	1	120																			
TOTAL of FOREIGN SHIPPING	2	319	–	–	–	–	1	180	11	1	120	9	2	410	24	–	–	–	3	320	23

An ACCOUNT of the SPECIES and QUANTITY of FOREIGN MERCHANDIZE IMPORTED into the Port of *CHEPSTOW*, from 1791 to 1797 inclusive.

SPECIES OF GOODS.	1791.	1792.	1793.	1794.	1795.	1796.	1797.
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.
Ashes Pearl and Pot - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	30.2.21						
Bell Metal - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	15.0.5				
Books - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2.4
Bottles Glass - *Doz. No.*	—	—	—	0.3			
Cables - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	183.0.0						
Capers - - - - - *lbs.*	—	—	—	6			
Cattle, Cows and Oxen - *No.*	—	—	—	—	—	12	
—— Swine - - - *No.*	—	—	—	—	—	100	12
Corn, Barley - - *Qrs. bush.*	—	—	11.4	914.1			
—— Oats - - *Qrs. bush.*	262.0	2,745.3	349.0				
Cordage - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	3.0.0	29.1.20	3.3.16			
Cork - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	821.2.12	51.1.20	—	948.0.20			
Feathers for Beds *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	2.3.10	—	—	0.1.27
Fruit, Lemons & Oranges *No.*	1,000						
Grocery, Plumbs - - *lbs.*	96½	55					
Hemp, Rough - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	1,812.1.17	1,205.2.8				
Horns, Ox or Cow - *No.*	1,238						
Iron, Bar - *Tons. C. qr. lb.*	99.18.3.24	250.3.2.19	97.6 2.15	160.14.3.12	50.5.2.16	—	9.12.0.19
—— Cast - *Tons. C. qr. lb.*	—	—	9.12.2.10				
—— Pig - - - *Tons.*	—	—	20.0.0.0				
Linen. Irish, Plain - - *Yards*	7,500	19,630	33,740	800	—	2,720	13,800
Linen. —above 36 Inch. *C. q. ells*	—	—	1.2.2				
Linen. Russia Towelling & Napkening *C. qr. ells.*	—	—	1.2.5				
Linen. Sail Cloth - *C. qrs. ells.*	—	0.1.17	0.3.5			—	
Linseed Cakes *Tons. C. qr. lb.*	—	—	30.0.0.0				
Mats, Russia - - - *No.*	—	—	285	504			
Oakam - *Tons C. qr. lb.*	—	3.3.0.18					
Oil, Sallad - - - *Gallons.*	—	—	—	11½			
Onions - - - - *Bushels.*	22	40	—	1			
Provisions, Bread and Biscuit - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	—	243.3.9	
—— Butter *Cwt. qr. lb.*	6.0.0	38.2.26					
Rags - *Tons. Cwt. qrs lb.*	—	—	6.0.0.27	6.0.2.16			
Seeds, Linseed - - *Bushels.*	20						
Skins, Calf, Raw - *Doz. No.*	—	—	62.0				
Tallow - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	6.0.0	403.1.16				
Tar - - - *Lasts, Barrels.*	—	0.2	17.8	1.8	—	—	0.9
Wine, Portugal - *Tuns. H. G.*	158.2.58	185.1.57	—	19.0.52			
Wood. Battens. - - *C. qr. No.*	32.0.10	70.0.13	25.0.15	—	23.3.0	—	15.1.22
Wood. Batten Ends *C. qr. No.*	2.0.0	—	4.0.0				
Wood. Boards, Paling *C. qr. No.*	5.3.1	21.3.0	—	—	13.0.0	—	10.2.0
Wood. Deals - - *Cwt. No.*	225 2.7	532.1.18	152.0.3	130.2.25	135.2.18	—	73.2.23
Wood. Deal Ends - *C. qr. lb.*	4.1.28	28.3.4	6.2.10	8.1.16	7.3.19	—	9.0.14
Wood. Firewood - - *Fathoms.*	—	2	—				
Wood. Handspikes - *C. No.*	0.0.15	0.3.6			0.3.18	—	2.3.6
Wood. Lathwood - *Fathoms.*	4½	55	15	2			
Wood. Masts, 6 to 8 Inches diam. - - *No.*	71	27	3	16	2	—	6
Wood. —— 8 to 12 - - *No.*	38	42	2	16	60	—	17
Wood. —— 12 and upwards *No.*	4	6	—	—	*lds. ft.* 16.11	—	*lds. ft.* 1.11
Wood. Oars - - - *C. No.*	—	0.3.22	—	—	0.1.24		
Wood. Plank, Maple - *Lds. feet.*	1.30						
Wood. —— Oak - *Lds. feet.*	—	—	8.28				
Wood. —— Pine - *Lds. feet.*	2.27						
Wood. Rafters for Oars - *C. No.*	—	—	3.1.0				
Wood. Spars - - - *C. No*	2.2.19	2.2.6	0.1.25	0.0.18	1.2.26	—	0.2.6
Wood. Staves - - *Cwt. No.*	317.0.23	26.2.0	183.3.2				
Wood. Timber, Fir - *Lds. feet.*	698.29	1,813.26	263.12	44.9	—	—	40.0
Wood. —— Oak *Lds. feet.*	101.35	—	11.11				
Wood. Ufers - - - *C. No.*	1.1.6	1.1.24	—	—	0.1.24		
Wood. Wainscot Logs *Lds. feet.*	11.5½	33.42					

ACCOUNT of the SPECIES and QUANTITY of BRITISH and FOREIGN MERCHANDIZE EXPORTED from the Port of *CHEPSTOW*, from 1791 to 1797 inclusive.

WARES & GOODS.	1791. Quantity.	1792. Quantity.	1793. Quantity.	1794. Quantity.	1795. Quantity.	1796. Quantity.	1797. Quantity.
Apples - - - - *Bush.*	71	114	149	228	69		
Bark, Oak *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	4,028.0.0.0	4,765.15.0.0	3,838.17 0 0	4,338.18 0.0	3,813.16.0.0	5,199.19.0 0	3,913.15.0.0
Beer - - - *Tuns. H. G.*	7 . 0 . 36						
Bricks - - - - - - *No.*	39,005	12,000	22,500	31,300	35,340	35,000	4,800
Brass Wro^t. - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	86 1 . 13						
Coal Tar *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	87 . 0 . 0 . 0						
Colours for Painters *Cwt q. lb.*	—	—	—	—	1 . 2 . 0		
Cyder - - *Tuns. H. G.*	23 0 . 18	215 . 1 . 37	103 . 1 . 19	26 . 0 . 39	22 . 2 . 61	53 . 2 . 52	0 . 0 . 34
Fruit, Walnuts - - *No.*	—	—	—	—	20,000	—	
Glass - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	80 . 0 . 0	3 . 0 . 0					
—— and E. Ware - *Pieces.*	1,200						
Grindlestones *Ts. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	—	26 . 0 . 0 . 0	
Hops - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	75 . 2 . 17	29 . 1 . 27	—	7 . 3 . 0	6 . 2 . 12	
Hoops, several Sorts - *Value*	£. 115 . 17 . 6	£. 124 . 10 . 0	£. 195 . 17 . 6	£. 826 . 5 . 0	£. 1,092 . 2 . 0	£. 1,074 . 0 . 4	£. 610 . 15 . 0
Iron, Bar *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	2 . 5 . 0 . 0	—	9 . 2 . 3 . 22	83 . 6 . 1 . 0	7 . 10 . 2 . 0	12 . 17 . 2 . 24
—— Nails - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	—	7 . 0 . 0	
—— Pig *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	246 . 0 . 0 . 0	596 . 0 . 0 . 0	717 . 10 . 0 . 0	871 . 19 . 0 . 0	739 . 6 . 0 . 0	569 . 1 . 0 . 0	171 . 10 . 0 . 0
—— Plate *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	4 . 0 . 0 . 0					
—— Wire *Tons Cwt. qr. lb.*	4 . 0 . 0 . 0	6 . 8 . 3 . 7	4 . 10 . 0 . 0	20 . 1 . 3 . 17	18 . 3 . 3 . 5	9 . 5 . 0 . 14	4 . 5 . 0 . 13
—— Wrought *Ts. Cwt. qr. lb.*	107 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	2 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	—	—	6 . 0 . 0 . 0
Lead - *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	4 . 4 . 2 . 7	—	14 . 17 . 2 . 0		
Paper, Glazed *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	9 . 1 . 6	56 . 2 . 24		
Provisions, Cheese *Cwt. q. lb.*	7 . 0 . 0	13 . 0 . 0	24 . 0 . 0	101 . 0 . 0	—	15 . 0 . 0	
Stones, Paving *Ts. Cwt. qr. lb.*	16 . 0 . 0 . 0	20 . 0 . 0 . 0	18 . 0 . 0 . 0	5 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	10 . 0 . 0 . 0	10 . 0 . 0 . 0
—— Slate *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	5 . 10 . 0 . 0					
Steel - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	5 . 2 . 14					
Sugar, Refined *Cwt. qr. lb.*	1 . 2 . 0						
Tin Plates *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	22 . 10 . 1 . 0	27 . 5 . 2 . 14	43 . 0 . 0 . 0	
Vinegar - - *Tuns. H. G.*	—	—	—	—	—	1 . 0 . 60	
Wood. Brazil - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	72 . 0 . 14		
Wood. Elm Boards - *Feet.*	—	—	—	—	—	300	
Wood. Fustick - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	65 . 1 . 20		
Wood. Logwood *Cwt qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	39 . 2 . 9		
Wood. Spokes for Wheels - *No*	—	—	—	2,200	—	2,364	
Wood. Timber, Ash *Ts. Ct. q. lb.*	26 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	—	70 . 0 . 0 . 0	3 . 0 . 0 . 0	12 . 0 . 0 . 0	
Wood. —Beech *Ts. Cwt. qr. lb.*	10 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	—	30 . 0 . 0 . 0	6 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	38 . 10 . 0 . 0
Wood. —Elm & Plank *Ts. Ct. q. lb.*	51 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	—	14 . 0 . 0 . 0	1 . 0 . 0 . 0	216 . 0 . 0 . 0	23 . 0 . 0 . 0
Wood. —Oak & Plank *Ts. Ct q lb*	339 . 0 . 0 . 0	376 . 0 . 0 . 0	111 . 0 . 0 . 0	495 . 10 . 0 . 0	64 . 0 . 0 . 0	88 . 0 . 0 . 0	236 . 0 . 0 . 0
Tree-nails - - *No.*	6,000	—	—	6,000	1,000	4,200	12,000

N° 17.—*Omission in Chapter* 40, *p.* 397.

MARK WOOD, esq. the present proprietor of Piercefield, is the representative of the ancient family of Wood, of Largo, in the county of Fyfe. His arms are, argent, an oak tree, eradicated proper, fructuated or; creſt, on a wreath of his liveries, a ſhip in full ſail, proper, and ſurmounted by a motto, "*Tutus in undis*;" ſupporters, two ſailors, caps and jackets vert, lappels, cuffs, and trowſers, argent*.

Theſe arms are thus minutely ſpecified, becauſe they were conferred on one of his anceſtors, Sir Andrew Wood, a Scottiſh admiral, who was knighted by James the fourth, for a victory obtained over the Engliſh fleet.

* Theſe arms are engraved on the plan of Piercefield grounds. Extract from the matriculation of Wood, of Largo, in the Heralds College of Scotland.

A List *of the* Principal Books *occaſionally conſulted in the Courſe of this Publication.*

Antiquarian Repertory, 2 vols. 4to.

Cambrian Regiſter, 2 v. 8vo.

Caradoc's Hiſtory of Wales, tranſlated by Powell, 8vo.

Camden.—Gough's Edition, 3 v. fol.

Churchyard's Worthines of Wales, 12mo.

Collins's Peerage, 9 v. 8vo.

Ducarel's Alien Priories, 2 v. 12mo.

Dugdale's Baronage, 2 v. fol. Monaſticon, 3 v. fol. with Supplement, by Stevens.

Edmonſon's Baronagium Genealogicum, 6 v. fol. and Heraldry, 2 v. fol.

Enderbie, fol.

Fuller's Worthies, fol.

Giraldus Cambrenſis, Iter Cambriæ, 12mo.

Godwin de Præſulibus Angliæ, fol.

Harris's Obſervations on the Julia Strata, and on the Roman Stations, Forts, and Camps in the Counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, Caermarthen, and Glamorgan.—Archæologia, vol. ii.

Horſley's Commentary on Antonine, fol.

Jones's Index to Records in the Exchequer, 2 v. fol.

Lambarde's Dictionary, 4to.

Leland's Itinerary, and Collectanea, 6 v. 8vo.

Lives of the Fathers, principal Martyrs, and other Saints, 12 v. 8vo.

Maddox's Hiſtory of the Exchequer, 2 v. 4to.

Nicholſon's Hiſtorical Libraries, 4to.

Reynolds's Iter Britanniarum, 4to.

Ricardi Corinenſis Monachi Weſtmonaſterienſis de Situ Brittanniæ Libri duo: printed in Bertram's Britannicarum Gentium Hiſtoriæ Antiquæ Scriptores tres.

Rogers's Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire. 18mo.

Sandford and Stebbing's Genealogical Hiſtory, fol.

Speed, fol.

Stowe's Annals, fol.

Strange's Account of ſome Remains of Roman and other Antiquities in Monmouthſhire.—Archæologia, vol. v.

——— Remarks on the Reverend William Harris's Obſervations on the Roman Antiquities in Monmouthſhire, and the neighbouring Counties of Wales; with an Account of ſome curious Remains of Antiquity in Glamorganſhire.—Archæologia, vol. vi.

Stukeley's Itinera Curioſa, 2 v. fol.

Tanner's Notitia Monaſtica, fol.

Williams's Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, 4to.

Willis's Hiſtory of Mitred Abbies, 2 v. 8vo.

Wood's Athenæ Oxonienſes, 2 v. fol.

Worceſtre, Wilelmi de, Itinerarium, 8vo.

Wyndham's Tour in Monmouthſhire and Wales, 4to.

Addenda to Chapter 34.

Further Information concerning JOHN of KENT; communicated by Mr. Owen.

John of Kent was a favourite Poet among the Welſh, and there is ſcarcely a Welſh MS. which does not contain ſome of his Pieces. He may be claſſed likewiſe among the early and eminent Lollards, as his Writings are filled with Doctrines hoſtile to the Roman Catholic Religion. His boldneſs in conſigning ſuch opinions to writing would have expoſed him to great danger, had he uſed a language more generally underſtood. It is difficult to give a Catalogue of all his Works, which are extremely numerous; the following Liſt is compiled merely from the Index of the Welſh School MSS.

Mr. Owen is of opinion, that the author of theſe Pieces probably flouriſhed between A. D. 1360 and 1430.

A Liſt of the Welſh Poetical Pieces by John of Kent, which are ſtill preſerved.

The Three Periods of Life.
The Trinity.
The Creation.
An Invitation to praiſe God for his Grace.
To his own Purſe.
The World.
Shewing the Afflictions of the World.
A Lamentation for the Condition of the Welſh under Henry IV.
On the World, with an Invitation to truſt in God.
The Uncertainty of the World.
To the Proud and the Covetous.
On the World.
To God.
On the World.
The ſame Subject.
An Addreſs to God.
Paraphraſe on the 21ſt Chapter of St. Luke.
The Miſer.
On the Ten Commandments.
A Divine Poem.
The Day of Judgment.
The Seven Deadly Sins.
An Addreſs to the Deity.
To the World.
Againſt Murder.
A Satire on the Bards.
An Anſwer to the above, by Rhys Goç Eryri.
The Reprehenſion of the Clergy.
The Miſer.
The Prediction.
The Three Mortal Foes.
To Old Age.
The Redemption.
The Fall of Man.
To the World.
On the Life of Man.
To the World.
A Divine Piece.
The ſame Subject.

Antiquities recently diſcovered at Caerleon.

SINCE the whole of this work was printed, I received from my friend Mr. Evans an account of ſome Roman antiquities recently found at Caerleon. They were diſcovered by Mr. Gethin, maſter of the market boat to Briſtol, who was building and repairing a houſe near the church yard, which he holds under the biſhop and chapter of Landaff. In digging a ſaw-pit, the ſtone N° 1 was diſcovered in the beginning of June, and N°s 2 and 3 in the month of September.

N° 1 is of freeſtone, of an oblong ſhape, 3 feet long, 2 broad, and 1 foot 9 inches thick; it contained two inſcriptions, one of which, on the broadeſt ſide, was defaced by the maſon employed to clean the ſtone, and the other, on the narroweſt, is only in part viſible.

N° 1.
DEDICATV
VRF
OG ES
VE NIO
MAXIMOIE
FVRPAN°
COS

The only inference we can draw from this dilapidated inſcription, is, that it was probably dedicated in the conſulate of Maximus and Urinatus Urbanus, in the laſt year of the reign of Alexander Severus. *.

N°s 2 and 3 are evidently two parts of one ſtone, the dimenſions of which, together, are 9 feet in length, 19 inches broad, and 15 thick; mutilated inſcriptions remain on the two ſides; that on the broader ſide, N° 2, appears to be a votive inſcription by the ſecond Auguſtan Legion, and perhaps the other, N° 3, indicated the time in which it was erected.

N° 2.
NN
AVGG
GENIO
LEG
II AVG
INH°N°
REMMI'T
M VA
F H
I V
L F
S C
PP
DD

N° 3.
DD
VIIII
OCCB
PRCR
EIML
COS
CVR
VRSO
AGTæ
EI : IVS

The plinth which formed the baſe of the firſt ſtone was likewiſe diſcovered, and as theſe ſtones were found within a few feet of each other, Mr. Evans conjectures that the whole formed a kind of pillar.

* See Faſti Conſulares, in Dufreſnoy's Chronological Tables, vol. i. p. 219.

INDEX.

ABERGAVENNY, ſituation of, 164.—Population, 425.—Adjacent mountains, 164.—The ancient Gobannium, 167.—Former and preſent ſtate, *ibid.*—Trade, 168.—Free ſchool, 170. 182.—Ancient walls and Tudor's gate, 172.—Ruins of the caſtle, *ibid.*—Hiſtory of the caſtle and barony, 173.—Pedigree of the early proprietors, 180.—Priory and churches, 182.

Aberyſt-with, church and pariſh, 247.—*See* Jones.

Abone, *ſee* Sea Mills.

Akeman Street, ſuppoſed traces of, near Caerwent, Int. 20, and *note*.

Alfred the Great, makes preparations to attack Caerleon, Int. 8.

Allgoods, inventors and manufacturers of the Pont-y-pool ware, 234.

Altyrynys, an ancient ſeat of the Cecils, 223.

Antonine's Itinerary, courſe of the 12th and 13th Iters, and part of the 14th, Int. 15, 17, 18, and 20.

Architecture of the Saxons and early Normans, Int. 27.—Gothic, introduction and progreſs of, Int. 28.—Various ſtyles of in the ancient buildings in Monmouthſhire, Int. 28.

Ariconium, Int. 12.—*ſee* Berry hill.

Arthur, King, Int. 6, and 92.

Audeley, Hugh de, receives Newport caſtle, by marriage with Margaret, daughter of Gilbert the Red, earl of Clare, 51.

Aurelius Ambroſius, becomes ſovereign of Britain, Int. 6.

Avon Lwyd, or Torvaen river, 116.—Excurſion down the valley, 232.

B.

Bach, ſon of Gwaithvoed, lord of Scenfreth caſtle, 328—330.

Baderons, proprietors of Monmouth—*ſee* Monmouth caſtle, Hiſtory.

Bakers, monuments of, in Abergavenny church, 191.

Baladun, or Balun, Hameline, builds the caſtle of Abergavenny, 174.

Bayly, Dr. account of, 147, *note*.

Baſſaleg church, 59.

Beacon mountain, 251.

Beauchamps, lords of Abergavenny—*ſee* proprietors of Abergavenny caſtle.

Beauchamp, Sir William, Richard, earl of, and Henry duke of Warwick, account of, 176—179.

Beaufort, dukes of—*ſee* Somerſet.

Bedwas church, 69.

Begam, called the original ſeat of the Kemeys family, 61.

Bellingſtocke, or encampment of the Lodge near Caerleon, the ſite of an ancient Britiſh town, 90.

Berkleys, proprietors of Raglan caſtle, 140.

Berry Hill, near Roſs, the ſite of the ancient Ariconium, Int. 12. 22.

Bertholly Houſe, an ancient ſeat of the Kemeys family, 37.

Bettus Newydd, 162.

Bicknor, *Welſh*, church of, monumental effigies, 344.—Proprietors of, *ibid.*—Pedigree of the proprietors, 345.

Bigods, earls of Norfolk—*ſee* proprietors of Chepſtow caſtle.

Bitton, the ſite of Trajectus, Int. 14, 15.

Black Rock, 2.

Blaen Avon, works and mines, 227.

Bleſtium, Int. 12—*ſee* Monmouth.

Blethin Broadſpear, lord of Lanllowell, 122.

Bloets, proprietors of Raglan, 140.

Blorenge mountain, 164.

Bohuns, earls of Hereford—*ſee* proprietors of Caldecot caſtle.

Bohun, Humphrey, pedigree of his deſcendants, 21.

Bovium, or Bomium, ſite of, Int. 18, *note*.

Bowlays—*ſee* proprietors of Penhow caſtle.

Braoſe, family of—*ſee* proprietors of Abergavenny caſtle, and White caſtle.

Brecknock, canal, 48.

St. Bride's church, 73.

Brotherton, Thomas de—*ſee* Plantagenet.

Buckingham, Henry duke of, receives the caſtle of Caldecot, 21.—beheaded, *ibid.*—His ſon Henry duke of Buckingham beheaded, and Caldecot caſtle forfeited to the crown, *ibid.*

Ballinore, antiquities discovered there, 120,
De Burgh, John, receives the castle of Usk, White castle, Grosmont and Scenfreth, by marriage with Elisabeth, daughter of Gilbert de Clare, 128.
See Usk.
Place, a seat of the Morgans, 260.—Church,

C.

Cadivor Fawr, or the Great, ancestor of the Morgans, 65.
Cadoc, St. an account of, 96, *note*.
Caeluch, or *Kyllough*, seat of the Hughs's, and Powells—*see* 427.
Caerau, the residence of the Rev. Mr. Evans, 56.
Caerleon, the ancient Isca Silurum, 60.—Derivation of the name, 80, *also*, 417.—Description of by Giraldus Cambrensis, 80.—Remains of the Roman fortress, 81.—Roman amphitheatre, or Arthur's Round Table, 84.—Suburbs, *ibid*.—Roman antiquities, 85—88.—Roman antiquities lately discovered, 433.—Castle, ruins of, and other ancient buildings, 87.—Ancient encampments in the vicinity, 89.—Supposed seat of King Arthur's government, 92.—History of, subsequent to the Romans, 92.—Sites of the chapels of St. Julius, St. Aaron, and St. Alban, 95.—Church of St. Cadoc, or Langattoc, 96.—Free school, *ibid*.—Cistertian abbey, 97.—Present state, population, and manufactory of, 100.—Bridge, 101.
Caerlicyn—*see* Encampments.
Caerwent, the ancient Venta Silurum, 24.—Walls, 25.—Roman antiquities, 26.—Proprietors of, 28.—Church, *ibid*.
Caldecot Pill, probably the landing place of the Romans in Monmouthshire, Int. 17.
Caldecot castle, ruins of, 18.—History and proprietors, 19.—Assigned to the crown, 20.—Annexed to the duchy of Lancaster, 21.
Caldecot, church and priory, 22.—Level and Sea Walls, 42—*see* Sewers.
Campston—*see* Encampments.—House, 223.
Campwood—*see* Encampments.
Canal of Monmouthshire, 47.—Tonnage of for one one year, 415.
Canal, intended, from Brecknock, 48.
Cantilupe, William de, receives Abergavenny castle, in dower with Eve, daughter of William de Braose, 175. *see* also White Castle, Grosmont, and Scenfreth.
Canute, enters Gwent, and defeats Rytherch ap Jestin, Int. 8.
Casnodyn of Gwent; an ode of, 407.
Castell Italorum—*see* Encampment at Lanhiddel.
Castell Glas—*see* Greenfield castle.
Castles in Monmouthshire, Int. 10, 27.
Castleton, 63.
Cecil family, 223, 267.
Charles I. anecdote of his escape of the New Passage, 2.—Visits Raglan castle, 145.—Visits Campston house, 223.
Charles I. and II. visit the priory of Abergavenny, 321.
Charston, rock, or islet, 1.
Chepstow, situation and population of, 357.—Extraordinary height of the tide, 358.—Bridge, 359.—Trade, shipping, exports, and imports of, *ibid*.—Coasting vessels, and their tonnage, from 1791 to 1797, 428.—Vessels and tonnage in the foreign trade, from 1791, to 1797, 429.—Exports and imports, from 1791 to 1797, 430.—Priory and church, 360.—Remains of the priory of St. Kynemarc, and other religious edifices, 363.—Remarkable well, 364.—Site of the ancient bridge, *ibid*.—Walls and castle, ruins of, 365.—History and proprietors, 366.—*See* Marten, Henry.
Christchurch, 39.—Curious sepulchral stone, 40.
Churches in Monmouthshire, Int. 29.—Retain vestiges of the Roman catholic worship, Int. 30.
Clare family—*see* proprietors of Newport, Caerleon, Usk, Raglan, and Chepstow castles.—Pedigree of, 371.
Clare, Richard, earl of, assassinated in the Coed y Gruny, 226.
Clare, Richard, earl of Hertford, acquires Newport castle by marriage with Amicia, daughter of William earl of Gloucester, 51.
Clarence, Lionel, duke of, receives Usk, by marriage with Elisabeth, daughter of William de Burgh, 128.—George, duke of, 179.
Clytha house and castle, 158.
Cobham, lord—*see* Oldcastle.
Coed y Bunedd—*see* Encampments.
Coed y Caerau—*see* Encampments.
Coed y Prior, excursion to, 269.
Coldbrook House, proprietors of, 270.—Situation, 280.—Portraits, *ibid*.—*See* Herbert and Williams.
Constantine, raised to the crown of Britain, Int. 5.
Cooke, Thomas, monumental inscription of, 243.
Coriclet, 351.
Courtfield, supposed nursery of Henry V. 343.—*See* Bicknor, Welsh.
Craeg y Saesson—*see* Encampments.
Craeg y Gaercyd—*see* Encampments.
Crick village, 24.
Cross Pen Main, 262.
Crumlin Bridge, excursion to, 255.
Customs of whitewashing the cottages, 261.—Of strewing the graves with flowers, Int. 30.—Of colouring the outside of the churches, 29.
Cwm Mythve, 252.
Cwm Beeg, *ibid*.
Cwmyoy, situation of, 210.
Cwrt y Gaer—*see* Encampments.
Cwrw, or Welsh ale, 260.

D.

St. David, Godwin's account of, 95, *note*.—Chapel on the Honddy—*see* history of Lanthony.
David ap Gwylim, patronized by Ivor Hael, 64.—Account of, 408.—His ode to summer, 409.
Derry Hill, 206.—*See* Sugar Loaf.
Despenser, Hugh, seizes the castle of Newport, 51.
Dinetæ, territories of, Int. 3.
Dinham, village and castle, 28, 29.
Dixon, church and encampment, Int. 22, and 349.

Doward Hill, little, Int. 22, and 348.—Great, *ibid.*
Dress, of the mountaineers, 234.—Of the inhabitants of Ebwy Vale, 248.

E.

Ebwy, river, 66.—Vales of, excursions through, 246.
Edward, IV. born at Usk castle, 130.
Encampments, of Coed y Crafel, and in the vicinity of Old-castle, Int. 23, *note*.—Ancient, doubtful characters of, Int. 26, 27.—Roman, general form of, Int. 26.—Of the Gaer, in Tredegar park, 58.—Craeg y Saesson, 59.—Pen y Parc Newydd, 60.—Near Rumney, 63, *note*.—Of the lodge in Lantarnam park, 90.—Of Penros, 91.—Of Mayndee, *ibid.*—Of St. Julian's, *ibid.*—Of Craeg y Gaercyd, 134.—Of Campwood, *ibid.*—Of Coed y Bunedd, *ibid.*—Trewyn, 222.—Of Campston, 223.—At Lanhiddel, 253.—In the vicinity of Chepstow, 366.—Coed y Caerau, Kemeys Folly, Caerlicyn, Gaer Vawr, and Cwrt y Gaer, 412.
Ewias Vale—*see* Lanthony abbey.

F.

Fairies, their existence believed in many parts of Monmouthshire, 249, 250. 332, 333.
Fitzhamon, Robert, conquers Glamorgan, 50.—Pedigree of his descendants, proprietors of Newport, *ibid.*
Fitzhenry, Robert, earl of Gloucester and Bristol, receives the castle of Newport, by marriage with Maud, daughter of Robert Fitzhamon, 50.—*See* also Caerleon and Usk.
Fitzcount, Brien, 326.—*See* White castle.
Fitzosbornes, earls of Hereford—*see* History of Chepstow castle.
Franceschino's holy family, in the possession of Mr. O. Tudor, App. 427.

G.

Gaer, Brecknockshire, the site of a Roman station, Int. 24.
Gaer Hill, Excursion to the summit of, 224.—*see* Encampments.
Gaer Vawr—*see* Encampments.
Gam, Sir David, anecdote of, 288.—Gladys his daughter, 186.
Garter, order of its origin, 94.
Gavenny, river, 166.
Gaunt, John, duke of Lancaster, 306.
Geoffrey of Monmouth, 295.
Gerard, of Bromley, lord, acquires Caeluch, by marriage with the heiress of the Powells, 427.
Glamorgan, kingdom of—*see* Morgannoc.
Glamorgan, Edward, earl of—*see* Somerset.
Glendower, Owen, ravages Usk, and is afterwards defeated, 127.—Defeats the royal troops at Craeg y Dorth, 325.—Uncertainty respecting his burial place, 338.
Gloucester and Bristol, earls of—*see* Newport castle.
Gloucester and Hereford, earls of—*see* proprietors of Usk castle.
Gloucester, Richard, duke of, afterwards Richard III. 179.
Gobannium—*see* Abergavenny.
Goldcliff 42.—History of the priory of, 43.
Goodrich castle, view of from the Wy, 342.
Goytre, 269.
Grace Dieu abbey, 289.—Fac simile of the seal of, 427.
Graeg hill, 333.
Greenfield castle, 72.
Grosmont, castle, 334.—Besieged by Lewelline, prince of Wales, *ibid.*—Surprise of Henry the third's troops at, 335.
Grosmont, church, 335.—Village, 336.—*See* Kent, John.
Gruny, torrent, 225.
Gunter family, 183, also 321, *note*.
Gwent, an ancient appellation of Monmouthshire, Int. 7. App. 411.
Gwentian dialect—*see* Welsh language.
Gwern y Cleppa, the residence of Ivor Hael, 63.
Gwyn, sir, ap Gwaithvoed, 328.
Gwyn, sir Rowland, possessor of Pencoed, 33.

H.

Hadnock, 349.
Hanbury family, account of, 235.—Major, life of, 236.—Pedigree of, 244.—*See* Williams, Sir Charles, and Pont y Pool.
Harold, compels the natives of Monmouthshire to pay tribute, and builds a palace at Portscwit, Int. 9.
Hastings, lords of Abergavenny—*see* Abergavenny castle.—John, earl of Pembroke, &c. obtains Chepstow castle, 373.—Lord of Abergavenny, monument of, 425.—Lawrence de, *ibid.*
Henry II. anecdote relating to his conquest of Wales, Int. 9, *note*.
Henry, V. born in Monmouth castle, 307.—Anecdotes of, *ibid.*
Henry VII. when duke of Richmond, confined in Raglan castle, 141.
Herberts, etymology of the name, 203.—Family, origin of, *ibid.*—Curious deed, relating to the pedigree, 421.—Remarks on the genealogy, *ibid.*—Different branches of—*see* Lansanfraed, Proger and Werndee, Powell and Perthir, Troy house, Jones and Treowen, Wonastow, Hughs, and Caeluch.
Herbert, William, first earl of Pembroke, account of, 141.—Acquires Raglan castle by marriage, *ibid.*—Receives a grant of Caldecot castle, 20.—Purchases the castle of Chepstow, 375.—William, his son, resigns the earldom of Pembroke, and is created earl of Huntingdon, 142.—Elisabeth, his daughter and heiress, marries Sir Charles Somerset, 142.—Sir Richard, of Coldbrook, tomb in Abergavenny church, 186.—Account of his capture and execution, 187.—Sir James, sepulchral inscription, 190.—Sir Richard, of Ewias, account of, 131.—Tomb of, 189.—William, his son, first earl of Pembroke, of the second branch, receives the castle of Usk, 131.—Pedigree of his descendants, proprietors of Usk castle, *ibid.*
Herberts, of St. Julians, acquire Newport castle, 52.
Herbert, Edward, lord, of Cherbury, anecdotes of, 105.
Hereford, earls of—*see* History of Caldecot and Newport castles.
Hertford, earl of—*see* Clare.
Honddy, river, 209.

Howell,

Howell, Thomas, bishop of Bristol, anecdotes of, 284.
—James, anecdotes of, 285.
Herbert, family of, proprietors of Troistrey house, 162.—
—Court and Caeluch.
Herbert, William, earl of—*see* Herbert.

I.

Iron Werks in Monmouthshire, progress of, 229.—List of, Int. 3.
Isca Silurum, Int. 11.—*See* Caerleon.
Iston, valley of, 364.
De l' Isle, Brien, inherits the castle of Abergavenny, 174.

J.

Jasper de Hatfield, earl of Pembroke, &c. and proprietor of Abergavenny, 180.—Translation of his grant to the inhabitants of Landeilo Bertholly, &c. 427.
Jones, family of—*see* Lanarth, Clytha, and Treowen.
Jones's history of the parish of Aberystwith, 249.
Jones, William, founder of the free school and almshouses at Monmouth, 293.
Jorwerth, lord of Caerleon, 98.
Julia Strata, vestiges of, Int. 18. 24. 29.—Course of, from Bath, through Monmouthshire, Int. 13.
Julians, St. supposed site of a Roman villa, 86.—Roman antiquities found there, *ibid.*—Residence of lord Herbert of Cherbury, 103.—Chapel, *ibid.*—Proprietors, 112.

K.

Kemeys Folly, view from, 37.—Anecdote relating to, 121.—House, a seat of the Kemeys family, *ibid.*—*See* Encampments. —Village, *ibid.*—Commander, 161.
Kemeys, Sir Nicholas, surprises Chepstow castle, 376.—Slain in defending it against the rebels, *ibid.*
Kent, John, traditional account of, 336.—Probably a learned monk, 338.
Kibby, brook, 166.
Kilsant, an ancient seat of the Morgans, 115, *note.*
Kitchin, Anthony, bishop of Landaff—*see* Mathern.
Kymin, hill and pavilion—*see* Monmouth.

L.

Lanarth Court, 159.—Church; inscription to the memory of Elisabeth wife of William Jones, esq. 423.
Lanbaddoc church, 120.
Lancaster, History of the duchy of—*see* History of Monmouth castle.
Lancaster, duchy of, possessions in Monmouthshire, 327.—*see* Caldecot castle, White castle, Scenfreth, and Grosmont.
Landeilo, or *Lantilio, Bertholly*, church, 205.—Translation of a curious grant, by Jasper de Hatfield, &c. preserved there, App. 426.
Landeilo Cressenny, the residence of Richard Lewis, esq. 283.—House, a seat of the Powells, 284.—Portraits at, *ibid.*—Church, 287.—Benefactions of the Powells, 288.
Landewi Skyrrid, a seat of the Greville family, 198.
Lanellen, 268.
Langattoc, church of, at Caerleon, 96.
Langibby House, a seat of the family of Williams, 117.—Castle, 118.—Proprietors of, *ibid.*
Langrunny, vale of, junction of Monmouth, Hereford, and Brecknockshires, 225.
Langua priory, 223.
Lanhiddel church, 252.—Encampment, 253.
Lanllowel, the residence of Blethin Broadspear, 122.
Lanover House, ancient residence of the Prichards, the seat of Benjamin Waddington, esq. 265.—Church, 266.—Sepulchral inscriptions, 267.
Lansanfraed, residence of James Greene, esq. an ancient seat of the Herberts, 155.—Proprietors of, *ibid.*—Church, 156.—Monumental inscription of a branch of the Herbert family, 157.
Lantarnam House, a seat of the Morgans, 115.
Lantarnam abbey, vestiges of, 115.—Church, 116.—Proprietors of, *ibid.*
Lanthony abbey, excursion to, 209.—Ruins of, 210.—History, 213.
Lantrisaint, 122.
Lanvair castle, 33.—Proprietors, 34.—Church and village, 35.
Lanvair Kilgeden, 160.
Lanvihangel Vedw, church, 61.
Lanvihangel House, an ancient seat of the Arnolds, belonging to the earl of Oxford, 198.
Lanwenarth hills, 206—*see* Sugar Loaf.
Lanwern House, the seat of Sir Robert Salusbury, bart. 41.
Leidet House, 325.
Lewis, Dr. David, monument in Abergavenny church, 192.
Lewis family, of St. Pierre, 6.—Pedigree, *ibid.*

M.

Machen Place, a seat of the Morgans, 67.—Vale, *ibid.*—Proprietors of, *ibid.*—Church, 68.—Hill, *ibid.*
Magna, the site of, Int. 23.
Malpas church, 78.
March, Mortimers, earls of—*see* Langibby and Usk.
Marchers, lords, government of, Int. 10.
Marshall, William, earl of Pembroke, &c. inherits the possessions of Richard de Clare, surnamed Strongbow, by marriage with his heiress Isabella, 373.—Account of, *ibid.*
Marshfield church, 74.
Marten, Henry, the place of his confinement in Chepstow castle, 378.—Anecdotes of, 379.—Portrait of, at St. Pierre, 3.
Mathern, ancient palace of the bishops of Landaff, 7.—Church, 8.—Account and inscription on Theodoric the supposed founder, *ibid.*—Bishops who resided and died there, 10.
St. Melons, church, 61.
St. Melo, or *Melanius*, account of, 61.
Milborne, family—*see* Abergavenny priory, and Wonastow.
Moinscourt, 11.—Roman inscriptions, 12.
Monmouth, description of, 290.—Charter and population, 291.—Trade of, *ibid.*—Caps, 292.—Free school and almshouses, 293.—Church of St. Mary, 294.—Ancient

cient priory, *ibid.*—Library of Geoffrey of Monmouth, 295.—Church of St. Thomas, 299.—Chippenham meadow, *ibid.*—Kymin, 300, 301.—Ancient Bleſtium, Int. 12 and 302.—A Saxon fortreſs, 302.—Ruins of the caſtle, *ibid.*—Hiſtory, and proprietors, 304.—Pedigree of the proprietors of, 305.—Birth-place of Henry V. 307.—Caſtle houſe, anecdote relating to, 313.

Monmouthſhire, ſituation and boundaries of, Int. 1.—Principal rivers, *ibid.*—Members of parliament for, *ibid.*—Diviſions of, *ibid.*—Population, Int. 2.—Eccleſiaſtical diviſions, *ibid.*—Languages, *ibid.*—Productions, *ibid.*—Part of the territories of the Silures, Int. 3.—*ſee* Gwent and Morgannoc.—Hiſtory of, ſubſequent to the Romans, Int. 4.—Princes of, extinct in the time of Henry II. Int. 7, 8, *note.*—Made an Engliſh county by Henry VIII. Int. 10.

Monnow, river, 223.

Montacutes, earls of Saliſbury, 344.—*See* Welſh Bicknor.

Montacute, Margaret de, lady of Welſh Bicknor, ſuppoſed nurſe of Henry V. 342.—*See* monument in Welſh Bicknor church.

Montague, Sir Walter, proprietor of Pencoed, founds an hoſpital there, 33.

Monuments, at Chriſtchurch, 40.—Of the Somerſet family in Raglan church, 149.—In Abergavenny church, 185.—Of major Hanbury, in Trevethin church, 242.—In Scenfreth church, 331.—In Welſh Bicknor church, 344.—Of Richard Strongbow, earl of Pembroke, in Tintern abbey, 352.—Of Henry, ſecond earl of Worceſter, in Chepſtow church, 362.—Of Henry Marten, in Chepſtow church, 390.—Of lord Haſtings, in Abergavenny church, conjectures on, App. 425.

Monumental Inſcriptions, at St. Pierre, 5.—In St. Woolos church, 53, 54.—Of the Morgans, in Machen church, 68, 69.—In Aberyſtwith church, 247.—Of Eliſabeth, wife of William Jones, eſq. of Clytha, App. 423, 424.

Moore, Sir Richard, proprietor of Pencoed, 32.

Morgan family, account of, 66.—Pedigree, *ibid.*—*ſee* alſo, St. Pierre, Pencoed, Lantarnam, Machen, Rogeſton, Penllwyn and Bydwellty.

Morgannoc, or Siluria, deed relating to the boundaries of, App. 411, 412.

Morley, Sir John, proprietor of Raglan caſtle, 139.

Morris, Valentine, proprietor of Piercefield, anecdotes of, 392.

Mortimers earls of March—*ſee* Caerleon, Langibby, Uſk.

Mortimer, Edmund, earl of March, receives Uſk, by marriage with Philippa, daughter of Lionel duke of Clarence, 129.—Account of, 128.

Mortimer, Sir Edmund, taken priſoner by Owen Glendower, 129.

Mounthermers—*ſee* Bicknor, Welſh.

Mounton, valley, 364.

Mowbrays, dukes of Norfolk, proprietors of Chepſtow caſtle, 375.—John ſells the caſtle of Chepſtow to William Herbert, earl of Pembroke, *ibid.*

Moyle, foreſt of, 225.

Mynydd Maen, 255.

N.

Nant y Glo, 250.

Nevilles, lords of Abergavenny caſtle, pedigree of, 281.—*ſee* Abergavenny caſtle.

Neville, Richard, earl of Warwick, 179.

New Paſſage, 1.—Suppreſſion of the ferry of, by Cromwell, 2.

Newcaſtle, ſingular oak and ſpring, 332.

Newport, 45.—Etymology of, *ibid.*—Ancient and preſent ſtate, *ibid.*—Charter, 46. 413. Trade, 46.—Account of the coaſting veſſels and their tonnage, from 1770 to 1795, 428.—Canal, 47.—Remains of the ancient walls and murenger's houſe, 48.—Caſtle, 49.—Hiſtory and proprietors, 50.—Church of St. Woolos, 52.—Anecdote on the building of the tower, 54.—Ancient religious eſtabliſhments, 56.

Nidus, ſite of, Int. 18, *note.*

Norfolk, earls of—*ſee* Bigod

Norfolk, dukes of—*ſee* Mowbray.

Normans, acquire the ſtrong holds of the Saxons in Monmouthſhire, Int. 9.—Complete the conqueſt of Monmouthſhire, *ibid.*

O.

Oldcaſtle, excurſion to, 220.—Suppoſed to be the ancient Bleſtium, 221.—*Oldcaſtle*, Sir John, lord Cobham, character of, *ibid.*

Old Court, the reſidence of Sir David Gam, 288.

Ordovices, territories of, Int. 3.

Overwent, conquered by Brien Fitz Count, 326.

Owen Wan, or the feeble, lord of Caerleon, 98.

P.

Pagan, Sir Robert, proprietor of Lanvair caſtle, 34.

Pant y Goitre, 157.

Parker's Due, or Parc 'ras Dieu, 289.

Paſſage, New, 1.—Anecdote of the ſuppreſſion of by Oliver Cromwell, 2.

Pembroke, earls of—*ſee* Strongbow, Haſtings, Herbert, Marſhal.

Pen y Parc Newydd—*ſee* Encampments, 60.

Pen y Vale—*ſee* Sugar Loaf.

Pencamawr, view from, 35.—Ridge of, deſcribed, 37.

Pencoed caſtle, ruins of, 32.—Proprietors of, 33.

Penhow caſtle, 30.—Church, 32.

Penllwyn Houſe, a ſeat of the Morgans, 259.—Family portraits at, *ibid.*

Penros, probably the ſite of a Roman villa, 86.—*ſee* Encampments.

Perthir, a ſeat of the Herbert family, 314.—Proprietors of, 317.

Peterſton church, 73.

Piercefield, a ſeat of the family of Walters, 392.—Proprietors of, *ibid.*—Houſe, 397.—Grounds, 399.

St. Pierre Houſe, the ſeat of the Lewis family, 3.—Church, 4.—Monumental inſcription, 5.

Plantagenet, or de Brotherton, Thomas, proprietor of Chepſtow caſtle, 374.—Pedigree of his deſcendants, *ibid.*

Pont y Pool, situation of, 233.—Etymology, *ibid.* Note. Ware, or Japan manufactfaure, 234.—Park, the seat of the Hanbury family, 239.—*See* Hanbury.—Collection of pictures, 239.—Grounds, 241.—Church, 242.
Portscewit, 16.—Destruction of the palace of Harold at, 17.—Called in the Triades one of the three ferries of Britain, Int. 17.—Encampment at—*see* Sudbrook.
Powell—*see* Landeilo, Caeluch, and Perthîr.
Prichard family, proprietors of Lansanfraed, 267.
Progers, a branch of the Herbert family, 204.
Proger, Mr. anecdotes of, 205. 316.

R.

Raglan Castle, ruins of, 136.—Splendid establishment of the marquis of Worcester, 140.—History and proprietors, *ibid.*—Siege by the parliamentary army, 146.—The library destroyed, 149.—Church, *ibid.*—Tombs of the earls and marquis of Worcester, *ibid.*
Rail Roads, described, 230.
Richard of Cirencester's Itinerary, course of, 11, 13, and 14 Iters of, Int. 15, 17, and 20.
Richard, III. born at Usk castle, 130.
Risca, situation of, 258.
Roads, in Monmouthshire, anecdote relating to, 14.—From Penhow to Newport, 39.—Newport to Caerdiff, 58, 63.—From Newport to Caerleon, 78.—From Caerleon to Usk, 120.—From Abergavenny to Blaen Avon, 231.—From Blaen Avon to Pont y Pool, 232.—From Pont y Pool to Abergavenny, 264.—From Abergavenny to Monmouth, 283.—From Chepstow to Monmouth, 324.
Roberts family, inscription to in Abergavenny church, 193.
Rogeston castle, an ancient seat of the Morgans, ruins of, 70.
Rolben hill, 165.—Excursion to, 206.—*See* Sugar Loaf.
Romans, conquer the Silures, Int. 4. 11.
Roman stations and roads in Monmouthshire, Int. 11.
Roman antiquities, Int. 19, *note*.—*see* Meinscourt, Caerwent, Newport, Caerleon, Tredonnoc.
Rood Loft, Int. 30.
Rosi, 340.
Round Table, order of, 93.
Rumney, river, the western boundary of the county, 61.—Church, 62.—Etymology of the word, 63.
Rumsey family, 267.—*see* Trelech.
Runston, ruins of, 13.

S.

Ad Sabrinam, a Roman post, Int. 16.
Salisbury, countess of—*see* monument in Welsh Bicknor church, 344.
Salmon weir described, 126.
Saxons, invited to Britain by Vortigern, Int. 5.—Attack the Britons, *ibid.*—Compel the princes of Wales to become tributary, Int. 7.—Conquer the principal parts of Monmouthshire, Int. 9.
Scenfreth castle, 329.—Church, 331.
Scobies, William de, proprietor of part of Caerleon, 98.
Sea Mills, the site of Abone, Int. 14. 16.
Sea Walls—*see* Caldecot and Wentloog levels, 71. 416.
Sewers, constitution of the court of, 416.
Seymour family—*see* Penhow and Trelech, 30.
Silures, territories of, Int. 3.—Conquered by the Romans, Int. 4. 11.
Siluria—*see* Morgannoc.
Skyrrid, described, 165.—Height, 166.—Excursion to its summit, 197.—Little, excursion to the summit of, 207.
Somersets, earls and marquisses of Worcester and dukes of Beaufort, origin of the family, 142. Pedigree, *ibid.*—Sir Charles, first earl of Worcester, account of, *ibid.*—Acquires Raglan and Chepstow castles by marriage, 143.—Henry, first marquis of Worcester, anecdotes of, 144.—Edward, earl of Glamorgan, sixth earl, and second marquis of Worcester, account of, 150.—Henry, first duke of Beaufort, proprietor of Monmouth castle, 313;—and of Troy house, 319.—*see* Raglan, Monmouth castle, and Troy house.
Sorwy Vale, excursion through, 259.
Stafford, Edmund, earl of, ancestor of the dukes of Buckingham, acquires Caldecot castle by marriage, 20.
Stafford, Ralph, earl of, obtains Newport castle, by marriage with Margaret, daughter of Hugh de Audeley, 51.
Staffords, dukes of Buckingham—*see* Newport and Caerleon.
Stanton, in Glocestershire, probably a Roman settlement, Int. 22.—Upper and Lower, near Lanvihangel, Int. 24. 209.
Stradling family, possessors of Rogeston castle, 71.
Striguil castle, belonging to the family of Clare, 36.—Erroneous opinion relating to the name, 38.
Striguil, or Chepstow—*see* Chepstow, priory and castle.
Strongbow, Gilbert and Richard, earls of Pembroke, 371, 372.—*see* also 36.
Sudbrook, encampment, 15.—Chapel, 16.
Sugar Loaf, situation of, 164.—Height, 166.—Excursion to the summit of, 195.—Four hills, which form the base, 206.

T.

Theodoric, St. buried at Mathern, 8.—*See* Mathern.
Ap Thomas, Sir William, 186.
Tibia Amnis, a Roman post on the banks of the Taaf, Int. 18.
Tintern abbey, ruins of, 352.—Founders and patrons of, 354.
Trajectus—*see* Bitton, Int. 14.
Traygruck, or Tregregg, 118.—*See* Langibby.
Tredegar House, the seat of the Morgan family, 64.—Family portraits, 65.
Trelech, Druidical stones, 322.—Musical well, 323.—Pedestal, *ibid.*—The residence of the Seymours and Rumleys, *ibid.*—Church, 324.
Tredonnoc church, Roman inscription, 122.
Treowen, a seat of the Jones's, 317.
Trevethin church, 242.
Trostrey forge, 160.—House, the seat of the Hughs's, 162.—Church, *ibid.*
Troy House, an ancient seat of the Herberts, 317.—Proprietors of, 318.—Collection of portraits, 319.

Tawdee, ſeat of William Dinwoody, eſq. 201.
Tryn Barlwm, excurſion to, 75.—Tumulus and entrenchment, 75.—Proſpect from, 76.

U.

Undy, 30, *note*.
Urioconium, Int. 11.—*ſee* Wroxeter.
Uſk, vale of the, 123.—Vale of, 123, *note*.—Town, ſituation of, 124.—The ancient Burrium, Int. 11. 124.—Preſent ſtate, 125.—Japan manufactory, *ibid*.—Charter, 126.—Caſtle, ruins of, 127.—Hiſtory, *ibid*.—Pedigree of the early proprietors, to Richard III. 130.—Church, 132.—Inſcription, *ibid*.—Various explanations, 418.—Priory, 133.—Priſon, formerly a Roman catholic chapel, *ibid*.—River, 166, Inundations of, 161. 268.

V.

Van family, Pedigree of, 41.
Vaughan family, proprietors of Welſh Bicknor, 346.
Venta Silurum—*ſee* Caerwent, 24.
Vortigern, becomes ſovereign of the Britiſh tribes, Int. 5.—Invites the Saxons to protect him from the Picts and Scots, *ibid*.—Uncertain accounts of his death, Int. 6.

W.

Wales, limits of, under Roderic the Great, Int. 7.
Wallingford, Brien de—*ſee* de l' Iſle, 174.
Walter de Gloceſter, conſtable of England, *ibid*.
Walters, family of—*ſee* Pierceſield, 392.
Warwick, earl of—*ſee* Neville, Richard.
Weir, ſalmon, 160.
Welſh, family of, poſſeſſors of Lanwern, 41.
Welſh Language, remarks on the ſtructure of, by Mr. Owen, App. 405.
Wentloog, level and ſea walls, 71.—Extraordinary inundation, 73.—*ſee* Sewers.
Wentwood, caſtles of, 30.—Chaſe, paſſage through, 35.
Werndee, the ancient ſeat of the Herberts, 203.—Proprietors of, 204.—*ſee* Progers.
White Caſtle, ruins of, 327.
White Houſe, reſidence of the family of Floyer, 206.
Whore's Wall, Int. 14. *note*.
Williams, Roger, of Langibby, receives Uſk priory, 133.
Williams, ſir Trevor, proprietor of Langibby, 119.—Arreſt of, 145.—Pedigree of, 119.
Williams, Charles, eſq. a great benefactor to Caerleon, account of, 96.—Bequeaths his fortune to major Hanbury, 237.—His ſepulchral inſcription, 237, *note*.
Williams, Sir Charles Hanbury, Papers at Pont y Pool Park, 239.—Anecdotes and character, 271.
Williams, Mrs. ſingular eſcape of, 101.
Windſor, viſcount Thomas, acquires Uſk, by marriage with the heireſs of the ſecond branch of the Herberts, 130.
Wonaſtow Houſe, ſeat of the Herberts and Milbornes, 320.
Wood, colonel, proprietor of Pierceſield, Pencoed, Caerwent, and Lanthony Abbey, 28. 33. 397.
Wood family, App. 431.
Woodſtock, Thomas, duke of Gloceſter, obtains Caldecot caſtle, by marriage with Eleanor, heireſs of Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford, 20.
St. Woolos church, 52.
Worceſter, earls of—*ſee* Somerſet.
Wroxeter, the ſite of Urioconium, Int. 11.
Wy, characteriſtic beauties of, 340.—Excurſion down to Monmouth, 342.—To Tintern, 350.—To Chepſtow, 355.
Wynd Cliff, view from the ſummit of, 402.

Y.

York, Richard, duke of—*ſee* Hiſtory of Caerleon, and Uſk caſtle.

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